

THE TIMES

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BEST FOR JOBS

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2-SECTION APPOINTMENTS

Backbench poll is blow for Hague



Hamilton: prominent on party's Right wing

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND ANDREW PIERCE

New 1922 chairman opposes local Tory votes for leader

CONSERVATIVE MPs apparently rebuffed the party machine last night by choosing as their backbench leader a prominent rightwinger who is against giving activists a vote in next month's leadership election.

Sir Archibald Hamilton was elected as the chairman of the 1922 Committee, whose executive will today decide the timing and format of the leadership contest. The new executive also includes John Butterfill and Geoffrey Johnson Smith as vice-chairmen, Michael Mates and Marion

Roe as joint secretaries, and Sir Peter Emery as treasurer. If they support Sir Archibald's line, demands for activists to get a 20 per cent say will be frustrated. And that will be a blow for William Hague, the activists' frontline choice, who yesterday surprised MPs by becoming the first leadership candidate to criticise John Major.

As the 1922 votes were taking place in a Westminster committee room, Mr Hague denounced the "constantly

shifting fudge" of the recent past and called for a fresh start under a clear lead. In what was interpreted as an attack on Mr Major's stance on a single European currency, Mr Hague said: "A fresh start means uniting the party behind a clear position. One of the lessons of the past few years is that it is easier to unite the party behind a clear position than a constantly shifting fudge."

The former Welsh Secretary said that his remarks were not

intended to criticise any individual. But he added: "It must be clear to all of us that in future we must speak with one voice, that we must unite behind common positions and that all members of the Cabinet or Shadow Cabinet will be expected to do so."

Mr Hague's supporters made no attempt to deny interpretations of advances of his speech which saw it as a criticism of the way Mr Major ran the party. Some even welcomed the fact that the

apparent attack had given the speech more attention. But it appeared that the Hague camp had also been motivated by private criticisms that their candidate was too much like Mr Major. Some of his supporters are worried that he is the second-choice of too many MPs and they need to ensure that he is the leading rightwinger to be sure of getting to final ballot.

Mr Hague told a meeting of party activists that the Conservatives were voted out

"because we lost the faith, the confidence, the goodwill of the electorate. Because we failed to communicate with the people and to show we understood their concerns. We were voted out for reasons of sentiment as well as substance. The free and prosperous society that we had championed became tainted with the image of sleaze, greed, self-indulgence and division."

He urged the party to "re-light the torch of freedom" and, referring to the "humili-

ating rout" it had suffered, said: "Now we have to pick ourselves up, dust ourselves down and get going again."

Mr Major's friends voiced disappointment about the speech. One said it was rather naive and added: "It shows up his lack of experience and it might cost him votes."

Supporters of leadership rivals also suggested that he had made a gaffe. While John Redwood has sought to portray himself as untainted by the failures of the last Government, other contenders have

Continued on page 2, col 4

New 'DAs' will have to explain decisions

By FRANCES GIBB AND STEWART TENDLER

THE powers of 42 American-style district attorneys who will be responsible for prosecutions in their areas were outlined yesterday as part of the Government's radical revision of the prosecution service.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said that the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) will be reorganised so that a chief crown prosecutor is responsible for each police force area, plus one for the Metropolitan and City of London forces. The chief crown prosecutor will have extensive devolved powers, full management responsibilities and a responsibility to liaise closely with the local chief constable.

The chief crown prosecutor will be "named, known and publicly accountable" and will work with the chief constable to "manage their respective parts of the investigation and prosecution process, to improve the overall performance and to give society what it wants - more of the guilty prosecuted and convicted".

The reorganisation reflects the Government's concern at the decline by a third in the number of convictions at a time of increasing crime. The present CPS structure, with 13 regions working with 43 police forces and 24 criminal justice liaison committees, is regarded as unwieldy; it is thought its procedures may work against securing convictions.

The chief crown prosecutor in each police force area will have to produce an annual report for the local police authority and local councils. He or she would be expected to develop close relations with the chief constable and other senior officers and would be expected to be much more sensitive to local concerns about particular crimes.

Under Mr Straw's plan, Crown Prosecution Service officials would have to explain to victims of crime any decision to discontinue a case or downgrade a charge.

Youth task force, page 2

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Becky Halliday, who yesterday won the right to a disability allowance to help her to meet the extra living costs caused by her deafness, including hiring a sign language interpreter. Page 3

Tony rewards his House-trained poodles

Political Sketch
Matthew Parris

BORING. That was the verdict after the new, improved, extra-length, super-constructive Prime Minister's Questions, unveiled amidst much excitement yesterday. Within days, Tony Blair has experienced a sensation it took Margaret Thatcher years to organise: scores of little wet backbench tongues caressing the prime ministerial boot; a sea of moist, adoring eyes around him; and the sound of orchestrated panting from those desirous of office.

Reporters' pencils dropped onto empty notepads. Tories stared at the rafters. Even Labour backbenchers yawned. One Liberal Democrat left almost before his leader had finished speaking. Two questions from Paddy Ashdown being more than he could bear.

In short, Tony Blair's reform was a complete success for him. Interest leaked away from the session as fast as water from Thames Water's

pipes. The new Prime Minister managed his first 30-minute interrogation with ease. Mr Blair was not so much grilled as gently burnished over a warm flame, as with a marshmallow. Claims that the reforms to PM's Questions will offer an opportunity for holding the premier to account, came to nothing. Instead, a troupe of backbench poodles came prancing in, on cue, with an array of patsy questions, choreographed by whips.

Labour poodles are not the same as Tory poodles. Tories would ask their Prime Minister to remind us how wonderful he is. Thus, yesterday, Jean Corston (Lab, Bristol E) asked

the Prime Minister to tell us of his determination to prevent crime. Stephen Twigg (Lab, Enfield Southgate) begged him to expand on his plans to create a "Drugs Czar". Lorna Fitzsimons (Lab, Rochdale) longed for good news about crackdowns on antisocial behaviour. All were rewarded with a biscuit.

Eric Illsley (Barnsley Central) requested (and - abracadabra! - received) a mini-announcement on plans to restrict landmines. And Stuart Bell (Lab, Middlesbrough) told his Leader that his conduct had been so splendid that all we could ask was what Mr Blair might do for an encore?

By now Mr Blair's boot had been licked until soggy. But Maria Fyfe (Lab, Glasgow Maryhill) was anxious for a lick, too. Ms Fyfe's voice reaches a pitch audible only to bats, but some words of her question did dip to human frequency. They included "congratulate". My Rt Hon



Friend the Prime Minister, and "new questions session."

And still the extended tongues dangled, hopeful. But it was 3.30. In half an hour Mr Blair had had time to be told how marvellous he was almost a dozen times. No wonder he prefers these new, longer sessions. Having replied, almost as often, how determined he is to conduct these exchanges "in a constructive spirit", his attacks on the Tories were sneaky rather than open, his standard answer being that he cannot promise much because the Tories have left such a mess. Mr Blair's other standard response is how important it is to give hope to the hopeless, a sentiment to which it is hard to take exception.

John Major did his best to rattle him, receiving no answer to a claim (twice repeated) that Labour had rattled on a secret pre-election promise not to include BT in a windfall tax. The PM is less than

convincing under pressure. But with Labour tongues ready only to lick, and Tory teeth sunk firmly into each other's bottoms, it is hard to see where pressure will come from. "Events, dear boy," Harold Macmillan once said, "events."

Council bans 'Crash' from West End cinemas

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A FILM which explores the supposed sexual allure of mutilated car crash victims was banned by Westminster Council yesterday. The decision means that David Cronenberg's *Crash*, inspired by J.G. Ballard's 1970s novel, will not be screened in London's West End.

The Conservative council feared that it could "deprave and corrupt" the immature and vulnerable and ex-

pressed concern about the movie's sexually humiliating depiction of women. It called on the Government to clarify guidelines on film censorship, rather than relying on the film industry's own rulings through the British Board of Film Classification.

This was the first time that Westminster had exercised such powers, overruling the BBFC, which gave the film an 18-certificate last January. It means that when it is released nationwide on June 6, it can be screened at cinemas beyond the borough of Westminster,

even a few streets away in neighbouring Kensington or Camden.

Councillor John Bull, chairman of the licensing sub-committee that made the decision, dismissed the film as "bordering on obscenity" and expressed concern about its influence. He said that there was too much violence, both on and off screen. "I'm not talking about going back to Disney or *The Sound of Music*," he said. "But we've had enough of violence."

The verdict was not unanimous. Kate Wilkins was one of three council-

lors - two Labour and one Conservative - who opposed a ban. However, her defence of the movie had nothing to do with its qualities. Banning it from Westminster's 30 cinemas, she warned, gives "monumental publicity" to a "horrid and tedious film".

Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, declined to comment. His spokeswoman said: "The censorship of films is not a matter for us. It's for the Home Office." A spokeswoman for the Home Office said: "It's a matter for Westminster Council."

IN BRIEF

Landmines are to be banned
All anti-personnel landmines held by the Army are to be destroyed by 2005. Their use until then has been suspended under a moratorium announced yesterday by the Government.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, also announced a ban on the import, export, transfer and manufacture of all anti-personnel landmines. Page 2

Solzhenitsyn is taken to hospital
The Nobel prize-winning author Alexander Solzhenitsyn, 78, has been taken to the cardiac intensive care unit of the Central Clinical Hospital in Moscow.

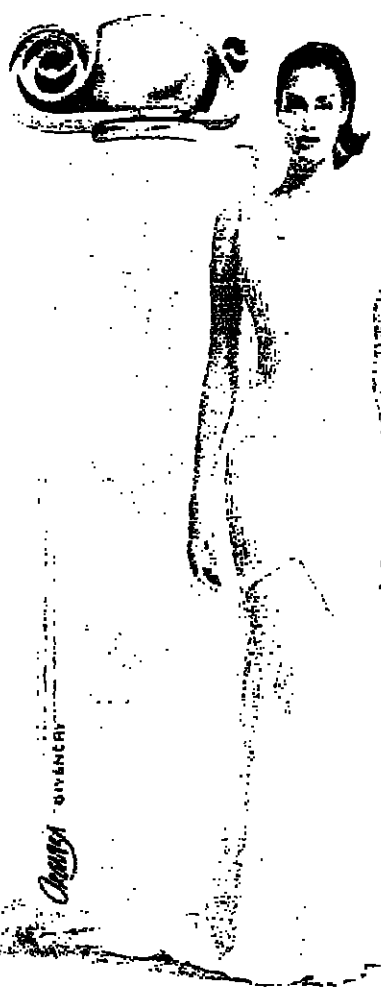
The hospital is normally reserved for senior government officials. Yesterday a spokesman refused to give any details of his condition. Page 15

Ring changes
The Government is considering making the fitting of bicycle bells compulsory. Baroness Hayman, the Roads Minister, said last night in a written reply.

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2 HOME NEWS

Forces will have to destroy all landmines

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ALL anti-personnel landmines held by the Army are to be destroyed by 2005. Their use until then has been suspended under a moratorium announced yesterday by the Government.

Moving swiftly to meet a commitment of the Labour election manifesto, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, also jointly announced a ban on the import, export, transfer and manufacture of all forms of anti-personnel landmines.

The moratorium on the use of the mines will also affect the JP233 runway-denial bombs dropped by RAF Tornados in low-level raids during the Gulf War in 1991. Ministry of Defence sources said yesterday that the official definition of anti-personnel mines also covered these air-launched systems.

After consultation with Services chiefs, Mr Cook and Mr Robertson said that "in exceptional circumstances" anti-personnel mines could be used between now and 2005 "if, for a specific operation, the security of our Armed Forces would be jeopardised without the possibility of the use of landmines".

Defence sources said: "The special circumstances mean if we have to go to war."

The previous Government announced a similar moratorium on the use of anti-personnel mines last year.

However, one difference is that if Labour ministers agree to allow mines to be used in special circumstances, they have promised to tell Parliament.

The other main difference in policy is that the Government has also decided to ban the purchase of "smart" mines that self-destruct, and a programme to develop a new anti-personnel mine has been cancelled. The Conservative Government proposed to replace the existing stocks of "dumb" mines: about half of the stocks have already been destroyed.

MoD sources said that the deadline of 2005 would give sufficient time to develop an alternative capability. One option, they said, was to improve battlefield surveillance and to use air blast mortar systems.

It is possible, however, that the deadline could be brought forward. Mr Cook also announced yesterday, in a written Commons reply, that the Government intended to play a fuller part in negotiating an international ban on anti-personnel mines under the so-called Ottawa process, which involves 50 countries.

Canada invited countries to negotiate a deal and although Britain participated last year, the Government is "more committed" to reaching an agreement, even though it would not be a global ban. Canada set a deadline for the end of this year.

Britain will also continue to play a part in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, to persuade the main export countries to stop selling landmines. Britain effectively stopped manufacturing, exporting and importing mines in the 1980s.

In the Commons reply, Mr Cook said: "Every hour another three people lose their life or lose a limb from stepping on a landmine. Landmines have limited military use, but create unlimited civilian casualties."

The International Committee of the Red Cross has estimated that there are 120 million landmines laid across the world.



The Army cleared many landmines in Bosnia

Loopholes warning on field of battle

By OUR DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE manufacture, export and use of anti-personnel mines has become one of the most politically sensitive issues among governments wishing to be seen as acting responsibly in the face of worldwide outrage over the continuing appalling civilian casualty toll. Of the 50 mine producers in the world, about 40 have now signed up to some form of moratorium. But, as Stuart Maslen, legal adviser to the mines unit of the International Committee of the Red Cross, said yesterday, banning use, not just production and export, provides the key to a real breakthrough in stemming the casualty figures of 2,000-a-month.

Britain, like many other advanced countries with modern professional armies, has been happy, until now, to embrace the campaign for a global ban on mines — started by the ICRC in February 1994 — but without surrendering the right to use anti-personnel devices for the protection of its

troops in war. Mine-laying has remained part of Army training and its use in warfare strategy has been justified at the highest level. The last time mines were laid by the British Army was in the Falklands War in 1982 and in the 1991 Gulf War.

The role of the mine in war is to protect military bases and key installations, divert enemy forces, deny routes to the enemy and to slow enemy movements.

There have already been moves to get round a ban in some countries by renaming them anti-personnel devices as "directed fragmentation charges" and having them detonated by a soldier, rather than simply being stepped on by a victim.

Colin King, editor of *Jane's Mines and Mine-Countermeasures*, warned that there were still many loopholes that would have to be addressed by the international community before a global ban could be regarded as effective.



The 1922 Committee was set up after a Tory backbench rebellion led to the fall of Lloyd George's administration.

The men in grey suits who can determine their leaders' fate

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

1922 vote a blow to Hague

TORY leaders have long shown nervous deference to the small group of granite-faced backbenchers who can end their careers at a stroke. The executive of the backbench 1922 Committee still wields considerable influence over the party leadership. The 18 members of the executive are still referred to as "the men in grey suits", despite the recent appearance of floral dresses. However, the predominance of long-serving MPs on the executive ensures that it remains mainly the preserve of the elderly Tory male.

The committee was formed after a Carlton Club revolt by Tory backbenchers forced the party leadership to end the coalition with the Liberals in 1922, bringing Lloyd George's resignation and ensuring that the Conservatives took power. "The cabin boys have taken over the ship," Lord Birkenhead declared.

The party formed a committee comprising Tory MPs who had entered the Commons in 1922, to ensure that backbench opinion was more effectively channelled to the party leadership. Shortly afterwards, the committee was expanded to include all backbenchers.

It is a role still valued by backbenchers, especially in opposition when the absence of power can lead to an dangerously conspiratorial atmosphere. The job of the

1922 chairman is to pass on backbench feeling, discussed by the executive every week. The seniority of the 1922's chairman offers experience and raises him (there has never been a female chairman) above the temptation of patronage. If the prospect of a peerage tempts him to know to the leadership, backbench disdain brings him to heel.

During the Major administration, David Mellor's career came to grief, partly because of the 1922 executive. In 1992, as Mr Mellor retained hopes that he could remain National Heritage Secretary, with controversy engulfing his private life, executive members were voicing their dismay to Richard Ryder, the then Chief Whip. The same day he left.

Even Margaret Thatcher saw office slide away, amid dwindling support from the executive. In November 1990, as she vowed to fight on after the first ballot of the Tory leadership election, mixed signals were emerging from the men in grey suits. Her hours were numbered.

She knew from personal experience the 1922's power to end a minister's career, even in the face of loyalty from the party leader. Sir Leon Brittan had been forced to resign as Trade and Industry Secretary over the Westland affair in 1986. Sir Leon had retained the backing of the Prime Minister, as Lady Thatcher, records in her biography, he could not convince — backbenchers — to

ship selection rules to give ordinary members a voice and offering to put himself up for re-election once the new system was in place.

The other 1922 executive members elected were: Sir Sydney Chapman, Michael Colvin, Christopher Gill, John Greenway, Robert Key, Sir David Mabel, Francis Maude, Sir Michael Spicer, John Townsend, Peter Viggers, Sir Ray Whitney and Nicholas Winterton.

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Aristocrat with finger on party pulse

By ANDREW PIERCE

THE election of Sir Archibald Hamilton is a victory for the parliamentary old guard. The Thatcherite former Defence Minister is the leader of the movement of Tory MPs opposed to party activists having any vote in next month's selection of a successor to John Major.

The former Coldstream Guards Officer put his outright opposition to the proposed changes to the leadership rules at the heart of his election campaign. It was a high risk strategy. Many of the 63 other MPs taking part in the ballot had come under enormous pressure from their constituency associations to support reform.

The MPs taking part in the secret ballot last night, in Committee Room 14 where Margaret Thatcher's period as Prime

MAN IN THE NEWS

Minister came to an end in November 1990, were in no doubt that a win for Sir Archibald was a defeat for change. But he had accurately gauged the mood of the parliamentary party which was to retain their jealously guarded privilege of deciding their next leader.

Sir Archibald, 55, and the newly elected executive will set the rules for the leadership contest. He will in effect become the party's new kingmaker. Despite his opposition he will still have to begin negotiations with the National Union, the voluntary wing of the party, which is championing the cause for change. But members of the National Union will be dismayed by the vote. Only last week he said: "We cannot have a situation whereby a leader is elected who may not enjoy the majority support of the parliamentary party. It could happen under the proposed changes to the system."

Sir Archie, a bluff and uncompromising figure, believes that the various proposals which have been put forward are an ill-thought response to the rout of May 1.

A Privy Counsellor and former parliamentary private secretary to Margaret Thatcher, he entered Parliament in a by-election in Epsom and Ewell in 1978. He was a Government whip for four years, before becoming a junior Defence Minister from 1986-87. He rose the ranks to become Minister of State for the Armed Forces. An Old Etonian and a former lieutenant in the Coldstream Guards, he represents the dying breed in the "Tory Parliamentary party: the aristocrat."

Holland had a worst record. The current system perversely reinforced youth crime, he said. "Intervention is slow, inconsistent and lax". Many offenders had suffered erratic parenting, which was indulgent one minute and harsh the next. The criminal justice system should not mimic those faults.

Mr Straw said the taskforce would include police, members of the Audit Commission, a critic of the youth justice system, civil servants, probation officers, social workers and lay experts.

Straw appoints taskforce to examine youth crime system

By STEWART TENDLER

A TASKFORCE of youth crime experts is to examine the treatment and punishment of young offenders. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said yesterday.

The group will be appointed within the next fortnight and begin work immediately on proposals for a Crime and Disorder Bill this autumn. The taskforce will advise the Government on "root and branch overhaul".

The taskforce, which will consist of about 12 people, was

announced by Mr Straw in his first major speech on law and order policy since he took office. He also announced to the Police Federation in Blackpool the reorganization of the Crown Prosecution Service and a wide-ranging investigation into its failure to bring criminals to book.

Mr Straw said an international survey published last week showed that more than a third of people in England and Wales were victims of crime last year. Not even the United States had such high figures, and in Europe only

situation whereby a leader is elected who may not enjoy the majority support of the parliamentary party. It could happen under the proposed changes to the system."

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Nurses defend 'Nitty Noras', unsung heroines of schools

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN'S health is being put at risk because so many school nurses are being laid off to save money, the Royal College of Nursing said yesterday.

The cuts are already decimating the school health service in some parts of the country and cash-strapped health authorities everywhere are beginning to see school nurses as a low priority.

The nurses annual conference in Harrogate agreed that

saving money in this way would be a false economy. Not only did the 5,000 school nurses keep children physically healthy but they were able to care for mental and behavioural problems, give advice about diet and contraception and were a trusted shoulder to cry on.

"We are there for them if they lose their grandmother or their kitten," said Anne Asprey, who looks after 1,700 children at seven schools in South-Buckinghamshire. "We can sort out behaviour problems in a way their teachers

can't because they trust us. We have built up experience in how to deal with them and there is no doubt that we save many from mental illness or crime." She is one of 16 school nurses in her area who have now been warned that their numbers are to be cut to ten.

"That would put up the number of schools I have to deal with to ten."

The conference agreed an emergency motion to press the Government to make it a statutory requirement for every school child to have access to a nurse.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Officials meet Sinn Fein delegation

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, moved yesterday to prevent Northern Ireland's marching season from descending into violent clashes as government officials held talks with Sinn Fein in the search for a new ceasefire. Today Ms Mowlam flies to Washington during which he is expected to call for a fresh IRA ceasefire.

The first talks between British government officials and Sinn Fein since the ending of the IRA ceasefire 15 months ago took place as Ms Mowlam visited Roman Catholics living along the routes of the most contentious Orange parades. She said: "It is only by talking and negotiation that we will get a settlement that both sides can live with." Martin McGuinness, who led the Sinn Fein delegation, said it was "too soon to say" if the differences between the Government and Sinn Fein had been resolved.

Whitehall review starts

The Government has launched a review of the way public services are hived off to private firms. David Clark, the Public Service Minister, has asked senior officials to eschew the dogmatic approach of the Tories that the private sector is always best, but he is still expecting to find substantial savings in Whitehall. Last night Cabinet Office officials met to discuss a new efficiency strategy combining the need for savings with a less doctrinal view of privatisation.

Relatives kept in dark

A couple have protested to the Police Complaints Authority after it took officers four weeks to inform them of their son's death, even though their telephone number was on a piece of paper marked "Mum and Dad" in his wallet. Paul Jones, 29, a security guard who died alone in his London home from an asthma attack, was classified as having no known next of kin. Mr Jones's remarried mother Penny and stepfather Ian Stephens, who wrote regularly, live in Arkansas.

Extradition defeat

A businessman facing £4.5 million bribery and corruption charges yesterday lost his legal struggle to stop his extradition to Hong Kong. Five Law Lords overturned a High Court ruling that the former Home Secretary, had misdirected himself when he ordered Ewan Lauder to be returned to the colony. Mr Lauder, 61, of Sutton Court, Oxfordshire, says he fears inhuman treatment if he is tried in Hong Kong under Chinese rule.

Libel apology for Moore

The actor Roger Moore accepted a public apology from the *Daily Mail* over an article suggesting he had made his estranged wife endure a bitter year-long battle over finances before reaching a settlement. The High Court was told that Moore and his wife of 27 years, Luisa, had agreed an amicable financial settlement shortly after their separation. The newspaper will also pay Mr Moore's legal costs for the High Court action.

Murder rate halved

The murder rate in the Republic of Ireland has halved since a clampdown on crime after the murder of Veronica Guerin, the journalist (right), in Dublin last June. Between January and April last year 17 people were murdered, compared to eight in the same period this year. This number of armed robberies has fallen by 52 per cent, and the overall crime rate by 3 per cent, statistics show.



Bell visits airport protest

Martin Bell, the newly elected MP for Tatton, yesterday visited the site of the Manchester Airport runway protest, which has in his constituency, and expressed concern for the safety of the campaigners. As he left he spent a second day evicting them from the tree tops. Mr Bell said he had been assured by Randal Hibbert, the Under Sheriff of Cheshire, that his team of 60 men were carrying out the evictions in a "non violent way".

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Pete Goss, centre right, Raphael Dinelli, and their wives

since we got back and this is a chance for us to get away together, have a few beers and relax. We certainly won't be taking it too seriously," he

added. Also on board *Aqua Quorum* will be Catherine Chabaud of France with whom Goss was in regular touch on his way round the

world and who finished the marathon race on *Whirlpool Europe 2* just a few hours behind him at the end of March.

"She has also become a very good friend," he said. "I've done a non-stop single-handed round-the-world race and made two good friends, one by finding him in a liferaft and the other by talking to her on the radio."

Dinelli was one of the estimated 100,000 people who turned up to welcome Goss at the finish of the Vendée, at Les Sables d'Olonne in France. He has since visited the British skipper and his wife Tracey at their home in Cornwall and was among 500 guests at a dinner to honour

him at their local sailing club at Tor Point.

In the autumn the two plan to compete in a transatlantic race together on *Aqua Quorum*, but before that Goss is to be Dinelli's best man at his wedding in Les Sables in August. "It's going to be a real gathering because I've got loads of friends there."

Goss also said that it has taken him until now to recover from the ordeal of the Vendée and all the promotional and publicity work which came after it which has still left him with a huge overcast.

"It's only now that I feel I am getting my feet back on the ground. It's been all go since I got back."

Chaste men live longer than men who chase

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

MALES would live longer if they were not forever pursuing sex, a British geneticist claims.

David Gems of University College London reached his conclusion after studying nematode worms. He found that male worms left on their own lived for 20 days, longer than the female average lifespan of 16 days. But when males were kept together, their lifespan fell to just ten days. This he attributes to the stress of constant competition — they were perpetually defending territory — and the search for mates.

Among humans it is women who live longer, but men have the genetic potential to do better, he told a meeting of the Zoological Society of London last week. To test the idea, he looked at the life span of worms with genetic mutations that made them less active.

These males lasted an average of 30 days, *New Scientist* reports, but the same mutations did nothing to increase the life span of female worms. Technically these are not females at all, but hermaphrodites capable of reproducing by themselves, but Dr Gems treats them as essentially female because they are capable only of making a small number of sperm for self-fertilisation.

"In males but not in hermaphrodite females, life span is limited by the rate of movement," he says. When a certain threshold of activity is exceeded, a worm's life is shortened. "Males are naturally above that threshold, and so their life spans are shorter." He speculates that males have evolved this enhanced longevity to compensate for the dangers of risky mating behaviour.

The worms may not be a perfect model, but Dr Gems says that there is evidence that other species, including man, live longer if the sexual drive is removed. Male marsupial mice which are castrated live for years, instead of just a few sex-mad weeks. "They spend 5 to 11 hours a day copulating," he says.

A study of eunuchs published in 1969 showed that their median life span was 13.5 years longer than that of intact males. Dr Gems also says that although women tend to outlive men, there are more men aged over 90 than women.



Jerry Lewis, who will be making his West End debut, mugs for the press yesterday

Jerry Lewis: over-sexed, over 70 and over here

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

JERRY LEWIS, the 1950s king of zany comedy, roared into London ahead of his West End debut yesterday. At 71, the American actor is a great-grandfather and has a five-year-old daughter.

He stopped the traffic in The Strand by kissing his wife, Sam, so ferociously it looked for a moment as though she might not survive. He danced precariously along walls for photographers and laughed his filthy laugh.

That Lewis is still on his feet seems to defy the facts. While many of his friends, from President Kennedy to Dean Martin, have fallen by the wayside, he has survived major heart surgery, made over 50 films, and fathered six sons.

When he takes to the stage

at the Adelphi Theatre next month it will be his 78th performance in the musical *Damn Yankees* since he took the part in 1955. His contract runs until the year 2000. He plays the devil, to whom a baseball fan sells his soul in order to become the greatest player in the world.

"But I've been playing the devil all my life," said Lewis, breaking again into that laugh. "I have never worried about anything. That's why I get into trouble all the time. I smoked five packs a day. They opened my heart with a Black & Decker and I thought that would be the time to knock it off. But I shall continue to keep going until these young kids burn out," he said of his fellow cast members. Lewis, whose film credits

include *It's A Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World* and the original *The Nutty Professor*, explained the secret of his longevity and seemingly limitless energy. "It's up here," he said tapping his forehead. "I don't allow any negativity in my life. There are too many people wandering around looking like they are wondering why they are alive. I'm looking forward to opening my eyes tomorrow morning."

When he found a photograph of Dean Martin, his one-time comedy partner, in the foyer of the Adelphi theatre it gave him "a quick nudge in the heart". The Martin and Lewis double act was one of the top showbiz attractions of the 1950s. They made 18 films together and became multi-millionaires.

ze strikes dukedom

RESPONDENT

misfortunes in the family. The Duke has been banned from driving for eight years following five drink-driving convictions. His brother, Lord Hugh, died at the age of 48 last year.

His nephew Brenden Douglas-Hamilton, 22, was badly injured in a car accident earlier this year. The Duke's cousin Sophie Buchanan-Watt, 28, has recently spoken of her three attempted suicides and of her work as a stripper in New York.



one of the lost portraits

Rolex watch stolen at Café Royal

By ADRIAN LEE

A BUSINESSWOMAN was robbed of an £8,000 Rolex watch inside the Café Royal in London. Doreen Chipchase was drinking with a friend when a man lunged at her wrist and pulled off the watch.

Mrs Chipchase, 57, a candidate for the Referendum Party at the general election, struggled with the man as he also tried to steal her handbag. A bracelet was snapped during the attack. On Monday, which left Mrs Chipchase with bruises to her arms.

Yesterday she complained that the management at the Café Royal, in Regent Street, had delayed calling police. Eventually, her friend's husband called them with his mobile telephone. "The manager told me to go to the police station around the corner instead of calling the police to the bar," Mrs Chipchase said.

A spokeswoman for Forte, which owns the Café Royal, said that the manager had been about to call the police when officers arrived. A security camera recorded the attacker, who was in his 20s.

An advert to get up people's noses

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

WITH X-ray glasses, 360-degree screens and wobbling seats the cinema has always had its gimmicks. Last night Aromarama, which first penetrated nostrils in America in the 1950s, was resurrected in south London.

Gordon's Gin, which is apparently concerned that people aren't making their G & Ts properly (i.e. with their product) has made an advert during which the smell of juniper berries, the key aromatic ingredient in gin, wafts through the cinema during footage of the spirit cascading into a glass. The technique works by injecting essence of the berries into carbon dioxide which is blown through the air-conditioning of the cinema. Last night's premiere took place in the Ritzy cinema in Brixton.

There was a strong whiff of gin on entering the cinema but this was emanating from the advertising executives, a number of whom were nursing Sir Denis Thatcher's favourite tipple — large ones — in each hand. The advert began amid

a lot of anticipatory sniffing, and yes there was a whiff of something identifiable as gin halfway through. Unfortunately, somebody decided to show the advert again straightaway. This time there was no smell and there were mutterings afterwards about the machinery breaking down.

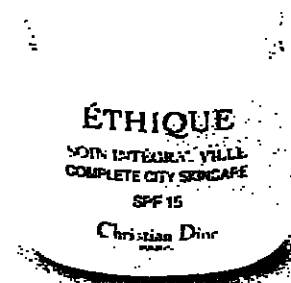
"If this is a great success we shall look at negotiating to release the advert on a larger scale," said Andy Neil, United Distillers' marketing director. He then talked excitedly of being able to offer viewers the taste of the drink while they watched. "Though of course that would mean changing the licensing laws."

Perhaps a clue to the likely future success of Aromarama lies in looking back. The British Film Institute knows of only four recorded instances of cinematic aromas, one in 1940, two in 1959 and the unsavoury sounding *Polyester*, filmed in Odorama in a brief 1982 renaissance. The cinema-going public took one sniff and turned up its nose.

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Dior

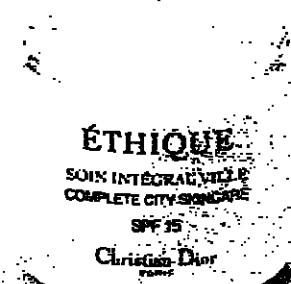
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Stimulate its daily activity

Dior

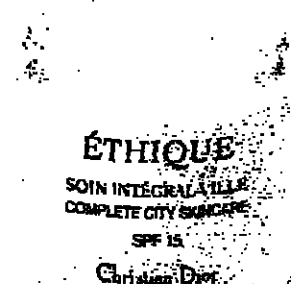
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Enhance its natural protection

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As the custodians of England's built heritage, we are often perceived as being somewhat nostalgic in our views.

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Today's buildings are tomorrow's heritage.

And one of our main concerns is the prevalence of derivative architectural design.

Many new buildings are little more than weak pastiches of historic architectural forms, detracting from the genuine article whilst adding nothing worthwhile in themselves.

A charge that cannot be levelled at the V&A's proposed new Boilerhouse extension.

Designed by Polish architect Daniel Libeskind, it has been described as follows:

"An absurd jumble of broken and collapsing boxes" (Brian Sewell, Evening Standard).

"Overpowering, forbidding and oppressive" (Sir Hugh Leggatt, Secretary of Heritage in Danger).

"A classic example of architectural bad manners" (Knightsbridge Association).

At English Heritage, we beg to differ.

We think the new extension is a terrific scheme. Or, to quote our own Commissioners, "a superb design of outstanding innovation."

We are not alone in our opinion.

The Royal Fine Art Commission calls the proposal "daring and innovative."

Marcus Binney of The Times is even more



The Boilerhouse extension. Carbuncle or beauty spot?

effusive in his praise, describing it as "a sensation, a brilliant marriage of architecture and engineering."

Clearly, this is a project that polarizes opinion, as do other recent proposals for London.

Plans for towers of unprecedented scale and height, and for new and enlarged bridges across the Thames, might change for ever the way the city looks and functions.

In order to arrive at a shared vision for London we need first to hear all the arguments, from all sides.

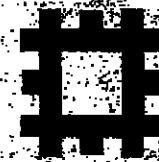
Which is why English Heritage has set up a

debate called "London - Planning Change in a World City."

The debate will take place next week in front of an invited audience of architects, planners, policy makers, council leaders, journalists and developers.

Speakers will include Michael Cassidy, Piers Gough, Simon Jenkins, Richard Rogers, Martin Pawley and Sydney Spörle.

And not a fuddy-duddy amongst them.



ENGLISH HERITAGE

Ethnic Britain: report reveals 'the pattern of future generations' as minorities integrate into society

Love and marriage show race barriers are falling

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A GROWING trend towards mixed relationships shows how ethnic minorities are integrating into British life, a report said yesterday. Among British-born Caribbean men, half the men and a third of the women now live with a white spouse or partner. Almost half of "Caribbean" children have one white parent.

A major study also found that long-term residence in Britain is slowly influencing the social and religious habits of the three million members of the ethnic minority communities, with a younger generation shedding distinctive features of their ethnic background while retaining a separate identity.

Although mixed relationships form a small proportion of all marriages, marriages with people from the white community are much more significant from the minorities' point of view. The report, *Ethnic Minorities in Britain*, by the Policy Studies Institute, said that the number of mixed-race relationships might be an indication of the likely pattern for future generations.

It said: "An aspect of family life which is clearly influenced by residence in Britain is the choice of white partners in

cohabitation, marriage and child-rearing. This has always been more prevalent among Caribbeans than among Asians but it is clearly on the increase".

The report added: "The process of assimilation and 'racial' mixing seem also to have developed, evidenced in the high levels of Caribbean-white partnering, initially by Caribbean men, but now also by women."

Mixed-race relationships are also increasing among Indians and African Asians.



Modood: report shows a generation gap

who have traditionally married within their communities. Nineteen per cent of British-born Indian and African-Asian men and 10 per cent of the women had a white partner, although there were few such relationships among Pakistanis and Bangladeshis.

Two-thirds of Caribbean and South Asian people who had a mixed race partnership were men, but among the small number of Chinese mixed relationships, the position was reversed. Two-thirds of the Chinese people with white partners were women.

For 40 per cent of children with a Caribbean mother or father, the other parent was white, with the usual pattern being a black father and a white mother. The study found that black Caribbean men in work are more likely to have a white partner and that, on the limited evidence available, mixed partnerships are among couples from higher socio-economic groups.

The issue remains controversial. Among some members of the black population, marrying white people is seen as a betrayal to community identity. The study found differing degrees of hostility about relationships between

the races, with 25 per cent of white people minding if a close relative married someone of ethnic-minority origin. Twelve per cent of Caribbeans would mind if a close relative were to marry a white person, 39 per cent of Indians, 51 per cent of Pakistanis and 40 per cent of Bangladeshis.

Among younger people, there was less hostility, with almost nine out of ten 16-34 year olds saying they would not mind, compared with four out of ten people over 50 saying they would mind, and 25 per cent minding very much.

The survey included 5,196 people of Caribbean, south Asian and Chinese origin and 2,867 white people. Tariq Modood, one of the authors, said: "Among older people, a sense of ethnic identity goes together with particular kinds of distinctive cultural practices. Among younger members, the distinctive features to do with religion, the wearing of Asian clothes, arranged marriages are in decline."

Ethnic Minorities in Britain, published by the Policy Studies Institute, 100 Park Village East, London NW1 3SR. Price £17.95.



Dennis O'Beirne, his wife, Cheryl, and their son Sean on Clapham Common

Changing face of country with many cultures

THE report gives a broad view of the lives of ethnic minority groups:

□ Chinese and African Asians have reached parity with the white population and should not be considered disadvantaged. They are doing as well as white people, earning an average of more than £500 a week. Their unemployment rates are as low or lower than the general population.

□ A "glass ceiling" operates in industry with hardly any ethnic minorities in the top 10 per cent of jobs.

□ A Pakistani or Bangladeshi with a degree is as likely as a white person with no educational qualifications to be below the poverty line.

□ An estimated 250,000 people suffer racial harassment each year.

□ Pakistanis and Bangladeshis are the poorest group in Britain with more than 80 per cent living in households where income is less than half the national average.

□ Half of Caribbean families with children are headed by a lone parent.

□ Ethnic minority participation in post-compulsory higher education is much higher than that of whites.

□ Two thirds of elderly South Asians live with their adult children compared with one in twelve white elderly people.

□ Almost half of people from ethnic minority groups had visited their family's country of origin in the past five years.

□ While many Asians no longer see clothes as a feature of their ethnic identity, some Caribbeans are seeking to express a new ethnicity through clothes and hair.

□ Seventy-one per cent of African Asians consider themselves British, 64 per cent of Caribbeans, 62 per cent of Indians, 66 per cent of Pakistanis, 60 per cent of Bangladeshis and 44 per cent of Chinese.

Couple who drew hostile stares now find acceptance

WHEN Cheryl and Dennis O'Beirne started courting 12 years ago, drivers would slow down to watch as they walked past. Now, whether they are in a predominantly white or black area of London, hardly anyone takes notice of them.

Occasionally the couple are reminded that pockets of hostility remain. Last year, as they walked down the King's Road with their nine-year-old son the couple were startled by an Afro-Caribbean man shouting abuse about their "mongrel" child. But Sean has not encountered problems at school.

Mrs O'Beirne's parents came to England from Guyana in 1957 and she was brought up for most of her

Dennis O'Beirne and his wife Cheryl have noticed a shift in attitudes to their relationship in the 12 years they have been together. Kathryn Knight writes

early life in Addiscombe, Surrey. Her husband's Irish parents settled in West Hampstead in the 1950s. The couple, who met at a party, married in 1986.

Mrs O'Beirne, who is in her late thirties, had initially been uneasy about being seen in a black area with her white husband. "I remember feeling very nervous about walking down the road and holding his hand. There was definite

hostility in Brixton to what they saw and I used to feel like we were a bit of a freak show," she said.

"Although I have never been really verbally abused, I was aware of heads nodding in disgust, whereas at the time the white community were much more curious about us."

Now, she said, any reaction to the couple is more likely to be an isolated remark or stare rather than any general attention. "I am used to

not even thinking about this issue because for my friends and family there is no issue," she said. "But now and again, something serves as a reminder that it can be a problem for other people. Occasionally I feel threatened when a passing remark reminds me that some people still don't like what they see when they see Dennis and me together."

Mrs O'Beirne had not encountered hostility from black men but could understand why some young black men in particular felt resentful when black girls started into a different race. "When I was little, if you saw a black girl with a white man then the assumption was that

she thought she was better than you," she said. "I think that attitude has more or less disappeared and the issue is much more complex."

"The problem, I fear, is that for a variety of reasons young black men get left behind — society can see them as troublesome in a way that they don't with young black girls, so sometimes black women can start to lead a different life."

"Marrying out of the community is just one extension of that and so I understand why some black men feel uncomfortable."

Mrs O'Beirne, who is one of seven children, trained as a nursery nurse and moved to London for work before setting up her interior

design business after her son was born. Her husband was self-employed as an electrical engineer until he contracted chronic fatigue syndrome 15 years ago.

Mr O'Beirne, 38, is now taking a course in stained-glass work and may go into business with his wife. They live in a roomy terraced house in Brixton, south London.

Mr O'Beirne was angered by any suggestion that inter-racial marriages diluted ethnic culture, one of the points raised in the report by the Policy Studies Institute on mixed marriages. "I've learnt such a lot about my wife's culture," he said. "Rather than selling her culture she's offered it to me."

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British woman's test case 'vital to stop HIV carriers recklessly endangering others'

Aids victim must confront lover in court ordeal

FROM DANIEL MCGRORY IN LARNACA

JANETTE PINK, her body ravaged by Aids and with only a brief time to live, will today confront her former lover in court in Cyprus and accuse him of deliberately infecting her.

The 45-year-old mother of two has been waiting for more than a year for the Cypriot authorities to use a law never tested in court to convict a man she says has sentenced her to death.

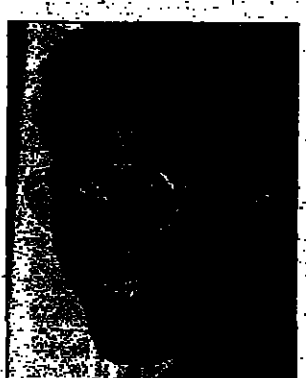
"I don't know whether I will succeed or what these next days will do to my health, but this man has to be stopped from infecting other innocent women," she said last night. "This is not about revenge, and it is too late to save me, but this test case is vital if we are to stop HIV carriers recklessly endangering others."

Mrs Pink knows that her own behaviour will not go unquestioned in the Larnaca courtroom as she explains how in 1993, bored of Sussex and her wealthy accountant husband, she moved to the resort of Ayia Napa, where she met and fell in love with a local fisherman, Pavlos Georgiou. "Some will call me foolish, but he meant a great deal to me, which is why

seeing him again across a courtroom will be extremely painful."

When their affair began Mr Georgiou, 40, told Mrs Pink that his wife was dying of leukaemia. Martha Georgiou, 34, died of Aids six months later. His son, Raphael, 4, is infected with the virus.

Doctors gave Mrs Pink three months to live last year. Her weight dropped to under five stone and she feared she would not survive to give evidence in the test case. She is still painfully frail but is fortified by a daily dose of 15 drugs. She said: "The worst



Georgiou wife died of Aids at age of 34

symptoms appear to be in remission right now, but I can never be cured and so I am grateful to the Cypriot authorities for taking this prosecution seriously."

Leading judicial figures in Cyprus are divided as to whether the prosecution should have been brought: some say that Alecos Markides, the Attorney-General, is under pressure to protect the island's reputation as the year's tourist season begins. Mr Markides is employing a law from 1957, which originated in India in the late 1940s and was intended to fight the spread of cholera and typhoid.

"The difficulty is that this law was passed long before Aids existed and it will have to be handled with special care as it is the first of its kind," he said.

If convicted, Mr Georgiou faces a maximum of two years in jail or a fine of up to £1,800. Mrs Pink insists the case is needed to set a precedent on dealing with allegations that HIV carriers have recklessly or wilfully caused harm by passing on the infection.

She is critical that the Law Commission and successive



Janette Pink returned yesterday to Ayia Napa, where she and Mr Georgiou lived when they were together, below

Home Secretaries in Britain have rejected the creation of a new criminal offence in Britain as "difficult in principle and practice". Mrs Pink, from Basildon in Essex, said she had the support of her parents and her two children, Katherine, 20, and Graham, 17, in pursuing the case.

Mr Georgiou's lawyer, Tasos Economou, said last night that the decision to prosecute the case was "foolish and inappropriate". "Our argument will be that this law was

not meant for such a case." He said that there were so few legal precedents that much of his preparation had been spent trawling the Internet, searching for similar cases heard in America and Germany. His client has in past interviews claimed that Mrs Pink knew he was HIV-infected and still wanted to live with him and have a child by him.

Mrs Pink said: "I know some evidence may be salacious, but I have to do this."



Just the ticket for missing winners

By CAROL MIDDLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY £120 million has been left uncollected by National Lottery prizewinners since the draw began in 1994, Camelot said yesterday.

Most of the money, £84.4 million, has passed the 180-day deadline and cannot be claimed. But Camelot said there is £33.3 million outstanding for which tickets are still valid.

The largest unclaimed prize yet was a £2,054,754 winning ticket bought in Hull on May 25 last year. Despite a huge publicity campaign it was never claimed and passed the expiry date last November. All unclaimed money and the interest earned is passed to the good causes.

Since the lottery began in November 1994, more than £1 billion has been paid to prizewinners. But a Camelot spokesman said the sum left unclaimed by winners was phenomenal. "Some lose their tickets, some forget to check and others can't be bothered. Much of the unclaimed money is £10 prizes."

"One man who claimed his money just in time bought his ticket in the winter, thought he had lost it all summer and then found it again next time he put his winter coat on."

Winners which can still be claimed include two jackpots worth a total of £960,502. There is only a week left to claim a £185,412 prize from a ticket bought in Harrow, northwest London.

Austrians lionise England soccer team

By GLEN OWEN

FOOTBALL rivals lost their shirts yesterday as England was declared to be "the strongest team in the world". It was the best title that the squad has achieved for decades, but it was won in a court and not on the pitch.

The Football Association had gone to the Austrian Supreme Court to stop a Viennese textile company from producing unauthorised shirts bearing the team's three lions emblem. The English side scored an overwhelming victory.

Yesterday's judgment upheld its right to the symbol, and told the shirt company: "You used the emblem of the strongest team in the world without paying for it. You should have known the English world was not to be copied."

"The English football team has created the popularity of the emblem through their achievements in football. You didn't put any effort or capital

into making this symbol successful. So why should you take a bite out of the fame?"

The lavish description of the team's abilities was made despite the fact that England's strength against Austria has not been tested since they travelled to Vienna in 1979. They lost 4-3. However, a long-term reputation has been enhanced by the fact that, out of the 25 matches played between the sides since 1908, England have won eight, lost four and drawn three.

"The FA is keen to protect the value of its merchandise amid hopes of qualifying for next year's World Cup in France. Nick Coward, of its legal department, said: "The symbol is a registered trademark. It is our intellectual property. If companies do not pay proper money for the right to use the emblem, its value will diminish. Any money we make is ploughed straight back into football."

Timely end to crows of a cockerel

By TIM JONES

TWICE a day, regular as clockwork, Basil Vandenhede heard a cockerel crowing. He believed it was trapped somewhere in his house.

So he called in the gas board to rip out his fireplace. He then summoned friends to pull bricks out of the wall so he could examine the cavities. He left out milk and bread. But at 10.30pm and 4am, the cock still crowed.

After six weeks he contacted the council and two environmental health officers spent the night at his house in Rochester, Kent.

"At 4am it started and we all jumped up and put the lights on," Mr Vandenhede said. "Then realisation dawned. I put my arm up next to an officer's head and he said: 'It's you, it's your watch.'"

Mr Vandenhede, 74, has solved the problem by smashing the watch, which was a gift from a friend.

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Female primates conduct illicit affairs, say scientists uncovering secrets of animals' mating game

DNA shows chimps' eye for monkey business

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

FEMALE chimpanzees conduct illicit affairs unknown to their male companions, and unobserved even by scientists who have spent years watching their every move.

The discovery, using DNA fingerprinting techniques to establish paternity in a community of chimpanzees in the Ivory Coast, contradicts 30 years of careful observation.

More than half the infant chimpanzees for which full DNA data was available had been fathered by males outside the social group. While female chimps were known to mate promiscuously within the group, pairings outside the group were believed to be rare. The females that engage in such illicit pairings do so secretly and at some risk, be-

cause males will kill infants if they know they have been conceived outside their community. The only chance that females have to spot likely partners from outside their group is when neighbouring communities fight, and it may be that they then eye up the best performers for future liaisons. The DNA studies, reported in today's *Nature* magazine, were carried out by Pascal Gagneux and David Woodruff, of the University of California in San Diego, and Christophe Boesch of the University of Basle. They worked with a 52-strong community of West African chimpanzees, *Pan troglodytes*, in the Tai Forest. The group has been studied for 17 years and is quite used to having humans about. Five other groups live near by. The DNA "fingerprints" were obtained either from

hairs left in the tree-top nests where the chimpanzees sleep, or from half-chewed pieces of fruit which contain cells from the lining of the cheek. This required close observation to make sure that the samples came from a particular chimp, but DNA fingerprints were eventually obtained for all 52.

The team tested the paternity of 13 infants, comparing their DNA with that of all the males in the community. In seven cases, the conclusion was that no male chimp from the group could be the father — "these infants must have been sired by males from other communities," they say. Observations showed that the seven females had indeed disappeared from the community for a day or two during the period when the infants must have been conceived. But this is not unusual behaviour, and they spent no longer away than did females who had infants fathered by group males, thus causing no suspicion.

They must have been very discreet, because the scientists say that in 17 years of observation they have never seen females approach foreign males except during fights, nor have they ever seen a female from another group making a surreptitious visit. The DNA results also show that being the top male is not a guarantee of having many offspring, as has been generally assumed. Two males, Brutus and Macho, who between them were dominant in the group for more than 11 years, sired no infants during that period. Both sired infants afterwards, however, and there is no telling how many they had with visiting females from other groups who may have visited them secretly.

This new study adds to a growing list of animals shown to engage in what zoologists call "extra-pair copulation". Even birds once believed to be faithful to one mate have been shown to play the field: the indigo bunting, a North American bird famed for monogamy, was shown by DNA studies to be easily cuckolded: two in five of the birds the male feeds in his nest are from "extra-pair" relationships. The breadth of the chimpanzee's genetic pool could have implications not only for understanding the social life of the primates, but also for managing populations at risk.



Mandy and one of her offspring at London Zoo

cause males will kill infants if they know they have been conceived outside their community. The only chance that females have to spot likely partners from outside their group is when neighbouring communities fight, and it may be that they then eye up the best performers for future liaisons. The DNA studies, reported in today's *Nature* magazine, were carried out by Pascal Gagneux and David Woodruff, of the University of California in San Diego, and Christophe Boesch of the University of Basle. They worked with a 52-strong community of West African chimpanzees, *Pan troglodytes*, in the Tai Forest. The group has been studied for 17 years and is quite used to having humans about. Five other groups live near by. The DNA "fingerprints" were obtained either from



Three Asian lion cubs, born in January, ventured out of their enclosure at London Zoo for the first time yesterday with their mother, Ruchi. The cubs, yet to be named, are a product of a co-ordinated European breeding programme for the endangered species, although captive breeding has been shown to pose problems for some zoo animals

Big cats need scent of success to breed

BY NICK NUTTALL

SCIENTISTS may have discovered why some rare animals, such as tigers, leopards and pandas, will mate in captivity, whereas others refuse.

Researchers at the Institute of Zoology in London have found a link between the numbers of males and females in a litter and the likelihood that the males will become "wimps" or Casanovas.

Most mammals, including the big cats and bears, base their choice of sexual partner on smell. Male big cats, for example, spend a great deal of time and effort warning rivals to stay away from their patch by leaving complex scent marks on the ground. The same scent marks are also crucial signals to females, when they are ready to mate, indicating the prowess and fitness of individual males.

The more scent marks, the stronger the signal that the male is a worthy mate who will produce fit and healthy offspring.

Professor Morris Gosling of the institute, which is part of

London Zoo, has been studying mice as a model animal to discover why some males produce a lot of scent marks and why others are "wimps". "We have found that if the numbers of females exceeds the number of males, then the males scent mark at a lower rate," he said yesterday. The researchers believe this is because young males surrounded by sisters think they have little need to make attempts to attract the opposite sex and have little to fear from male rivals.

The findings may have implications for captive breeding programmes. Professor Gosling said they might be able to collect the male's scent markings and get the female to accept him "by using the stored material to enhance his signal and double the frequency".

The researchers also want to extract the key gland chemicals used by the animals in scent marking. It may be possible to synthesise these artificially to enhance the allure of a "wimp" male.

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Planners says wooded area will deter geese and wildfowl and threatens rare wetland

Wildlife enthusiast told to dismantle Broads bird haven

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

A SHOOTING and wildlife enthusiast who spent the past four years creating a wooded bird reserve on marshland in the Norfolk Broads has been told he must return the site to its former state.

Robert Gunton bought the 11-acre plot on Lower Thurlton Marsh for £13,000 in 1993 and spent another £7,000 excavating a pond and planting about 1,000 trees, including poplar, ash, chestnut, elder, hawthorn and blackthorn.

With the help of four friends who are co-owners of the land, Mr Gunton also restored a pathway, erected hides for watching birds and for shooting duck and pheasant and built a hut for the tractor and mower he uses to harvest hay.

He put up footpath signs and notices warning of deep water. "We have provided a haven for large numbers of birds, such as yellowhammers, willow warblers, finches, kestrels, kingfishers and owls," he said. "Many have established nesting and feeding places. Now we are being told to destroy their habitat."

Planners at the Broads Authority, which has a status equivalent to that of a National Park, have ordered him to remove the trees, the hides and even a bench. Only the pond would be allowed to remain. Lucy Williams, spokesman for the authority, said: "Grazing marsh is an extremely rare habitat and it is our policy to

protect it. Birds such as geese and wildfowl, which we are trying to attract, need open wet areas to fly over and will move on if they see trees.

"Mr Gunton went ahead without seeking planning permission and we cannot allow that. To call what he has created a bird sanctuary is a bit odd when he is using the hides for shooting. He has appealed against our enforcement order and the matter will eventually be decided by a government-appointed inspector."

Chris Mead, of the British Trust for Ornithology, supported the authority's action. "It may seem draconian, but too often people think they are improving the countryside when they are creating something quite inappropriate."

"Two acres of wet marsh supporting a pair of snipe, for

example, is much more valuable than an artificially created wooded landscape providing a home for a whole conglomeration of other birds."

In a separate planning dispute, Brian Stinchcombe, a smallholder who keeps sheep, pigs and cows at Cwmdu in the Brecon Beacons National Park, has been told that he might have to demolish a bungalow he has built out of straw bales, a technique developed in the United States.

Mr Stinchcombe has spent £10,000 on the still-unfinished house, which has a corrugated iron roof and will eventually be rendered on the outside. Water is piped from a nearby spring. There is no electricity yet, but the house does have a telephone, cylinder-gas heating and a coke-fired stove.

"I have got three rooms, a bedroom, a spare room and kitchen-living room," he said. "I plan to put in a bathroom later. The house is very cosy and warm even though the roof is not insulated. It is my only home. I was previously living in a caravan."

Kate Carr, of the national park, said: "We recognise that this is an innovative and interesting building technique. But there is a presumption against allowing any type of house in open countryside and Mr Stinchcombe made no application for planning permission. We have invited him to apply retrospectively."



Robert Gunton on his wildlife reserve in the Norfolk Broads, which he has been told to return to its former state

Oasthouse must be returned to ruin

By A STAFF REPORTER

A MAN who converted a derelict 18th-century oasthouse into a home has won a temporary injunction to halt council workmen who were returning it to its former ramshackle state.

The workmen began stripping the roof and dismantling the timber-clad structure after making an early-morning raid on the site, supervised by police, two weeks ago. The former owner, who converted the oasthouse, called it "a disgraceful act of violence".

John Panvert, a former National Hunt jockey, lavished a small fortune and several years' work on the 235-year-old structure. He has since sold it to a new

owner, who is not thought to have moved in. Mr Panvert has led the legal battle.

Yesterday he obtained a temporary injunction suspending the work but he claims that £38,000 of damage has already been caused to Kettlehill Oast near Sevenoaks, Kent.

The dispute over the restoration began in 1990. Sevenoaks District Council refused planning permission for the restoration on the ground that it wanted to safeguard a sensitive area of green belt. An extra floor had been added.

The council ordered the oasthouse to be returned to "a state of disrepair" after the owner failed to comply with an enforcement notice. Officials say the contractors will dismantle unauthorised

parts of the building and remove them. The timber frame, tiles and other reusable materials will be put in store.

A council statement said: "Extensive works were carried out to the building around 1990 even though planning permission had been refused and a planning appeal dismissed." The dispute went as far as the Court of Appeal where the council's case was upheld.

Legal costs so far are estimated at £200,000 but Mr Panvert said that the battle would continue. His solicitor, William Merrick, said a further injunction would be sought to "stop the council causing any more legalised vandalism". He will then seek a hearing for a motion for planning permission.

Northwest beaches fail water quality standards

By NICK NUTTALL

THE number of beaches recommended as safe for bathing has risen by 25 per cent since last year in a survey by the Marine Conservation Society. However, it warns that many others remain badly polluted, with the North West a particular blackspot.

Only 163 out of 763 beaches surveyed meet the group's water quality standards, according to the 1997 *Reader's Digest Good Beach Guide*, which says it is "a source of national shame" that not one beach in the North West was considered "good".

Blackpool's South Pier beach as well as Morecambe North, Lancashire, were among those "heavily contaminated by sewage". The society said that it welcomed improvement work undertaken by water service companies, but this was "of little comfort to bathers who fall ill because improvements in sewage treatment will not be completed until the next century".

The society's conservation director, Guy Linley-Adams, added: "The truth is that many beaches are still unacceptably polluted by sewage works and sewage overflows."

The EC Bathing Waters Directive, introduced in 1976, required member states to meet minimum standards. The society's standards are much higher, and it wants EC standards toughened.

Recommended beaches include: Poole Sandbanks, Dorset; Selsey Bill, West Sussex; Ramsgate Sands, Kent; Hunstanton, Norfolk; Reighton Sands, Fife, Yorkshire; Low Newton, Northumberland; Roome Bay (Crail), Fife; Whitesands Bay, St David's, South Wales; Newcastle, County Down; Vazon Beach, Guernsey.

Among the worst-rated are: Hele Beach, Uffcombe, Devon; Stokes Bay, Gosport, Hampshire; Newhaven, East Sussex; Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex; Folkestone, Kent; Morecambe North and South, Lancashire; Blackpool South Pier; Douglas Palace and Broadway, Isle of Man; Turnberry, Strathclyde; Llanelli Beach, South Wales.

Greenpeace threatens to make waves over Atlantic oilfield

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

GREENPEACE yesterday threatened to take direct action to halt a new oil and gas production field in the Atlantic.

The environmental group, which last year stopped the deep-sea disposal of the Brent Spar oil platform by direct action at sea and a consumer-led boycott of Shell products, said "government's and

industry's response to global warming was feeble.

Instead of tax breaks for oil companies to find more fossil fuels, government should be backing a massive solar energy programme in Britain, it said. Solar power, which is getting substantial government backing in Germany and Japan, should be competitive within ten years according to the energy firms, which include BP Solar.

The attack on exploration comes

amid claims that the build-up of pollution in the atmosphere will not be stopped only by cutting emissions of the principal pollutants. The world also needs to tackle the "supply side" of fossil fuels and begin phasing out new exploration and production, green groups argue.

Chris Rose, deputy executive of Greenpeace, said yesterday that some sections of the oil industry were beginning to question their

exploration business. Earlier this week Heinz Rothermund, managing director of Shell UK Exploration and Production, speaking at Strathclyde University, echoed the environmental group's concerns about the threat to the planet from finding more oil.

"How far is it sensible to explore for and develop new hydrocarbon reserves, given that the atmosphere may not be able to cope with the greenhouse gases that will emanate

from the utilisation of hydrocarbon reserves discovered already? Undoubtedly, there is a dilemma," Mr Rothermund said.

Campaigners are calling on the Prime Minister to shelve new licences for exploration in the western Atlantic, where the first new well is expected to come on stream next year.

Peter Melchett, executive director of Greenpeace and a former junior industry minister for Labour, said

yesterday that Shell had said it was up to government to "draw a line in the sand".

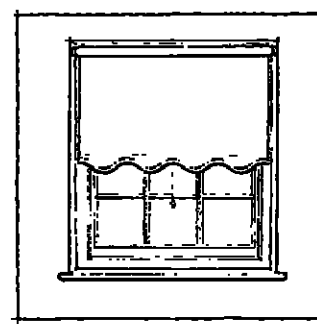
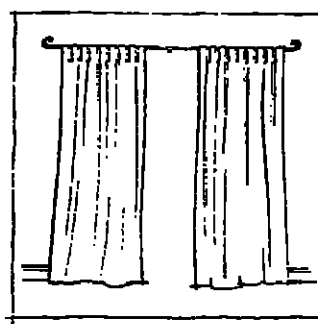
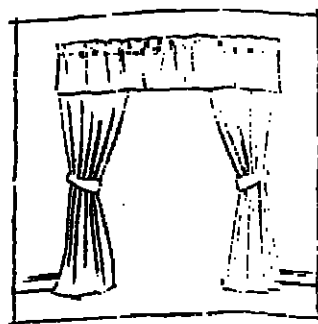
"We agree. Our line is at what the oil industry calls the Atlantic Frontier — a project to create a massive new oil field in the Atlantic north and west of Britain," Mr Melchett said. "It is here, we believe, that the Government should draw a line in the sand and say no new oil. We already have more than enough to create a huge problem."

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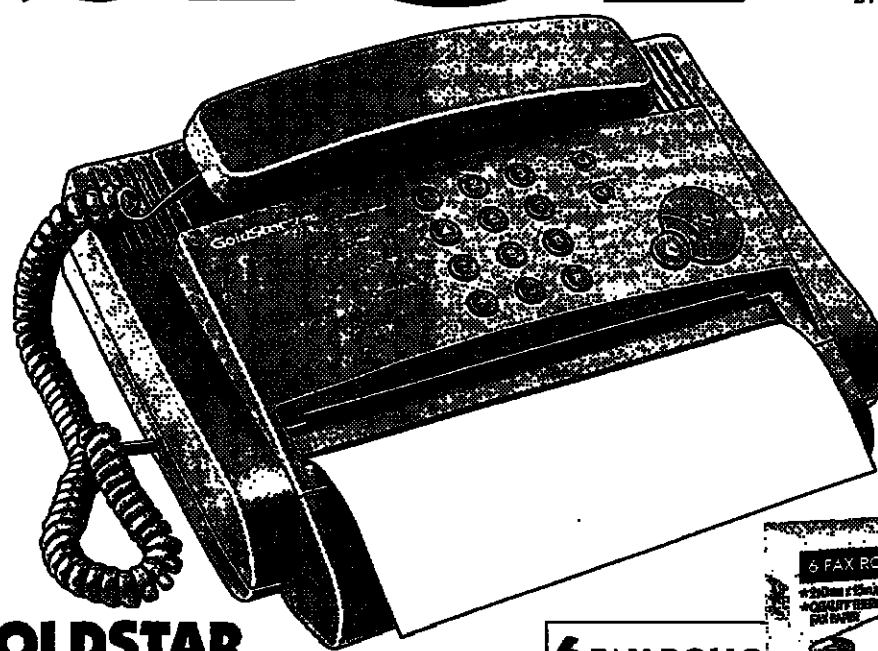
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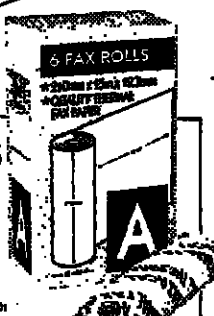
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Labour promises swift action over bribery allegation

By Jill Sherman and Gillian Bowditch

TONY BLAIR said yesterday that swift disciplinary action would be taken against Mohammed Sarwar, the MP alleged to have bribed a rival general election candidate, if an internal inquiry finds any evidence of "impropriety".

Yesterday the party's National Executive Committee set up an investigation into the conduct of Mr Sarwar and his constituency party in Glasgow Govan. An NEC panel is expected to report within two weeks and if it recommends disciplinary action this would be taken before any decision by the police to bring charges.

Mr Sarwar was accused by the *New of the World* of giving, Iain Bader, who stood against him as an independent Labour candidate, £5,000 to scale down his election campaign. The MP says that the paper's allegations are false and that he handed Mr Bader the money as a loan.

Tom Sawyer, Labour's general secretary, said that the panel, which includes three members of the NEC, would "leave no stone unturned". He added: "We will not hesitate to take action if there is any evidence of corruption, abuse or wrongdoing."

But at yesterday's meeting it was clear that some members of the national executive felt that there was already enough evidence to discipline Mr Sarwar. One party source said:

"It was evident that NEC members were exasperated and were calling for tough early action."

The executive eventually decided that the panel should report first to ensure that natural justice was done. But Mr Blair indicated yesterday that the whip would be suspended from Mr Sarwar immediately if the investigation found that his actions had brought the party into disrepute.

If Mr Sarwar is strongly criticised by the investigating panel, Labour is then likely to withdraw his right to represent the party on the Scottish executive or at party meetings or functions.

The Prime Minister told the executive that the party had set very strong standards for itself and should take the "firmest action" if there was any wrongdoing. "We set ourselves some very high standards and we did that deliberately, very deliberately, and we must meet them. If we do not, the public will rightly be after us," he said.

"No-one should be in any doubt if any impropriety is found by us there will be strong action. If charged, obviously the whip will be removed and whatever other serious action that is appropriate will be taken if the outcome of the inquiry recommends that this be taken."

The panel will conduct a

much wider inquiry than the police investigation into the allegations against Mr Sarwar. Party sources said the NEC inquiry would start immediately and would be completed within two weeks.

One of the NEC panel members is Alan Johnson, the newly elected MP for Hull West and Hessle and former general secretary of the Communications Workers' Union. The others are still to be appointed.

Mr Sarwar is suing the *New of the World*, which says that it stands by its story. He now faces further allegations that he bribed two other fringe candidates, Peter Paton and Jamil Abbasi.

Last night he issued a statement backing the Labour Party inquiry. "As a member of the Labour Party, I fully support Tony Blair's commitment, reiterated today, to introduce higher standards into politics," Mr Sarwar said. "I therefore fully understand today's decision of the National Executive Committee to set up an inquiry into the allegations and I welcome such an inquiry."

"I reiterate my earlier statement that I refute entirely the totally false allegations made against me by the *New of the World* newspaper. As you have been made aware I have been advised by my solicitor not to make any further comment in the meantime."



Thirty-minute theatre: Tony Blair and Clare Short during Question Time yesterday

Curtain up on Blair's new show

TWENTY MPs were called yesterday for the first 30-minute weekly session of Tony Blair's new-style Prime Minister's Questions. This was more than double the average tally for the 15-minute twice-weekly sessions under the previous system, and led Mr Blair's aides to declare the change a success.

The MPs called yesterday put 24 questions (John Major had three goes). There was standing room only with MPs crowding in at the bar of the House and the overflow having to be accommodated in the galleries. Maria Fyfe (Lab, Glasgow Maryhill) drew cheers when she noted the increase in the number of

questions put. She added: "It has been a more civilised and informative event than ever before, and we look forward to this in the future." Mr Blair said: "I hope people will understand that it is a better way of organising Prime Minister's Questions."

Leading article, page 23

Ashdown reaping benefits of party's new prominence

Paddy Ashdown won an important symbolic victory yesterday. He intervened twice in the new-style Prime Minister's Questions, compared with his previous single question. This change reflects a significant, and largely undisputed, shift in the balance of opposition politics since the general election.

For the past 60 years, the two big parties have dominated the Commons: with the Liberals and other minority parties on the sidelines. From the 1950s until the February 1974 election, the two main parties won at least 97 or 98 per cent of the seats in the

Commons. The combination of the Ulster Unionist split from the Tories and the Liberal revival in 1974 started to reduce this proportion. But even at the height of the SDP/Liberal Alliance in 1983, the two main parties still won 93 per cent of the seats. Even with its reduced numbers, Labour still had more than 80 per cent of all the opposition members.

That has now changed dramatically. The combination of the Tory rout and the best Liberal Democrat performance for 60 years has meant that the Conservatives now have only just over two thirds

MODEL ON POLITICS

of the opposition MPs. They are therefore no longer the only opposition party that matters. In due course, there will be a readjustment of the allocation of opposition days and of the "Short" money which assists the parliamentary work of opposition parties.

But there has already been a shift in the working of the Commons. Mr Ashdown not only had his greater public exposure yesterday but the Lib Dems are already being consulted more by Labour business managers. On a lead

given by Tony Blair, Labour is already being more friendly towards the Lib Dems in recognising their new prominence.

This conciliatory tone has been reciprocated. Mr Ashdown and his colleagues have gloated over some of the new Government's actions, such as giving the Bank of England the power to set interest rates and the overhaul of City regulation, which were more specifically promised in the Lib Dem manifesto than in Labour's. But as significant is

that the Lib Dems have not made a fuss on issues of importance to them, like the voting system in the 1999 elections to the European Parliament and a commission on proportional representation for Westminster, where the Government has not acted yet. The Lib Dem line is "we trust the good faith of the Government to deliver" and, crucially, to live up to its promises of a new, more co-operative style of politics, what Mr Ashdown calls "a new culture of rationality".

Mr Ashdown is playing a wait-and-see game at a national level until the dust of the election campaign settles. He wants to see what happens to the Tories and where the weaknesses are in the new Government — the nature of strains on constitutional reform, public spending and Europe. He will continue to press on health and education.

PETER RIDDELL

Howard attacks 'dictatorial' style

By James Landale, Political Reporter

MICHAEL HOWARD yesterday attacked the Government's plans to hold referendums on Scottish and Welsh devolution before Parliament can debate the relevant legislation.

The former Home Secretary compared Labour to the "continental dictatorships" that had used referendums to sideline their Parliaments in the 1920s and 1930s.

The attack came as Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, hinted that positive referendum results would allow the Government to rush the legislation through Parliament. "The right result will give the moral authority and speed the passage," he told MPs.

Mr Howard was appearing at the dispatch box for the first time since Ann Widdecombe, his former Home Office colleague, publicly questioned his judgment as a Cabinet minister. Tory MPs saw the speech as an attempt by Mr Howard to regain the initiative in the party leadership battle by establishing his credentials as a tough defender of the United Kingdom.

Mr Howard was speaking in the first day of debate on the second reading of the Referendums (Scotland and Wales) Bill, which will provide for the people of Scotland and Wales to be consulted. When the referendums take place, probably in September, the details of the plans will have been set out only in a White Paper. The legislation will be put before Parliament only after a "yes" vote in both referendums.

Mr Howard said it was right that the electorate should be consulted on the greatest constitutional change since 1707. "But they should be asked for their opinion, when all our questions have been answered, when all the details are known, when the legisla-

tion has been finely tempered and scrutinised in this House and when Parliament has debated and decided."

The Government, he said, was trying to curtail Parliament's ability to perform its proper function. "A pre-legislative referendum is designed to pre-empt parliamentary debate. It is not a new device. It was a device that was the hallmark of continental dictatorships between the wars. European tyrants used the plebiscite to sideline their parliaments. They used it to suppress the rights and liberties of their citizens. This is the model which this new Labour government has decided to follow."

Leading article, page 23

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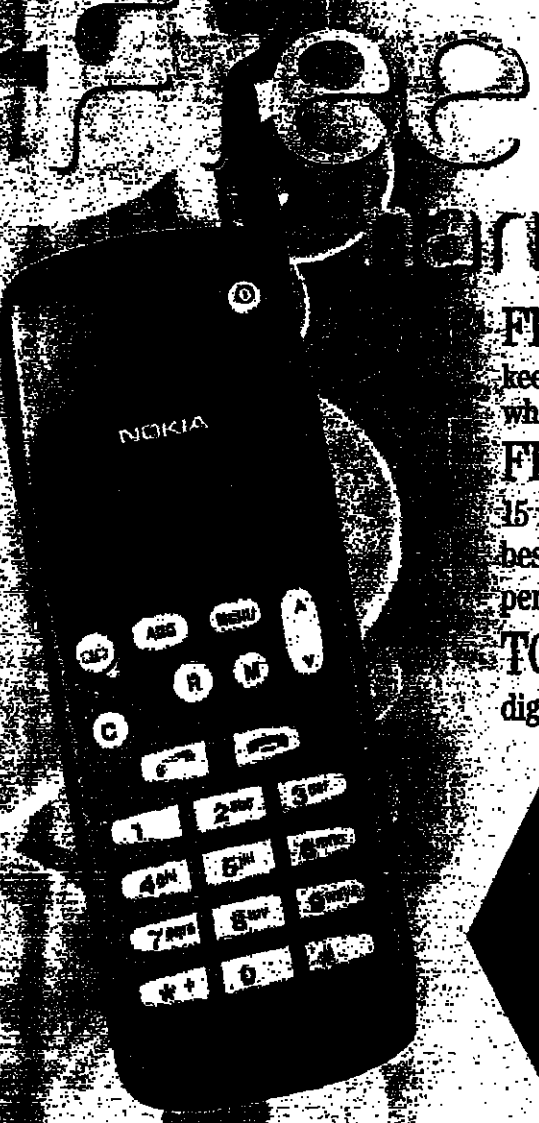
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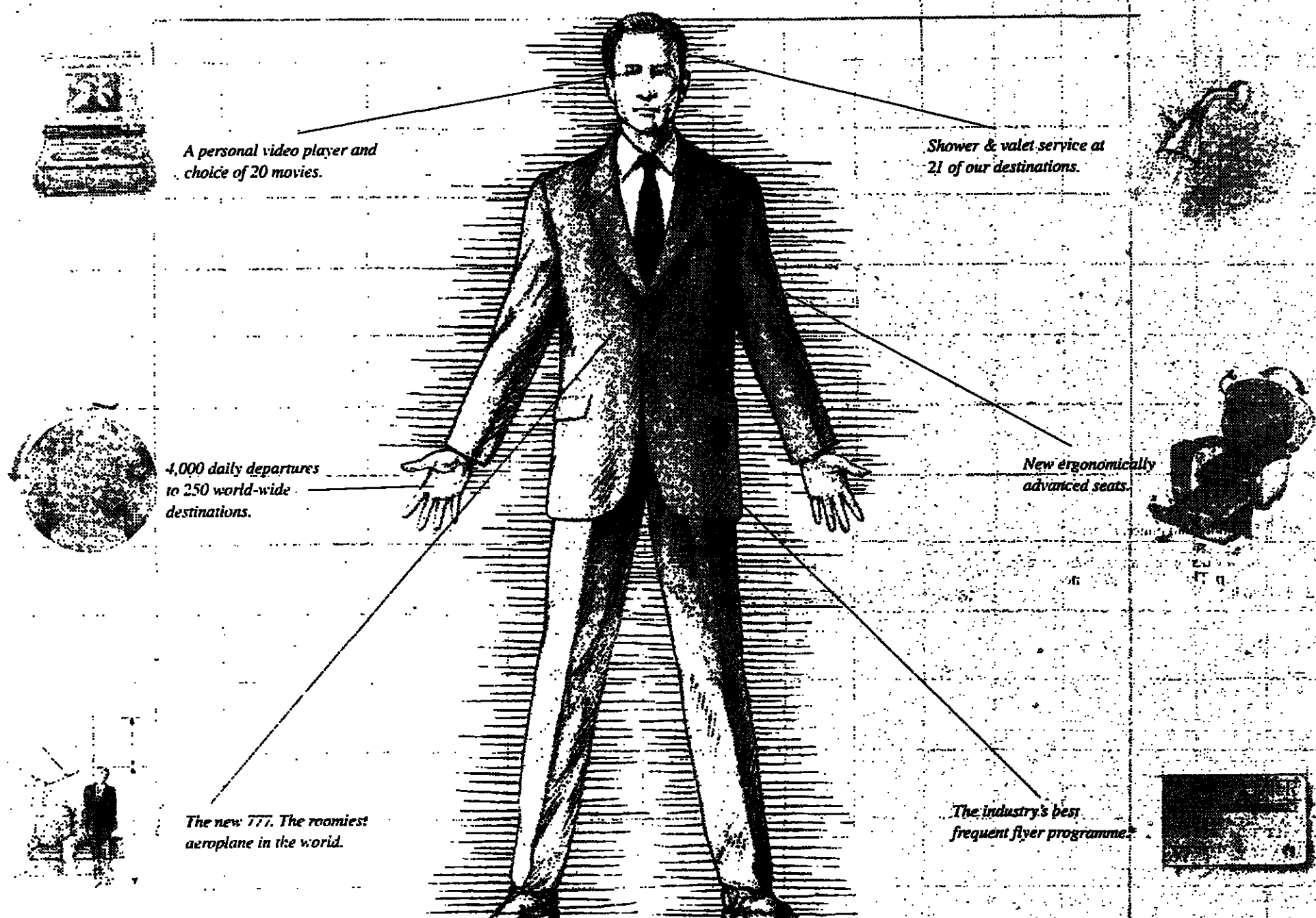
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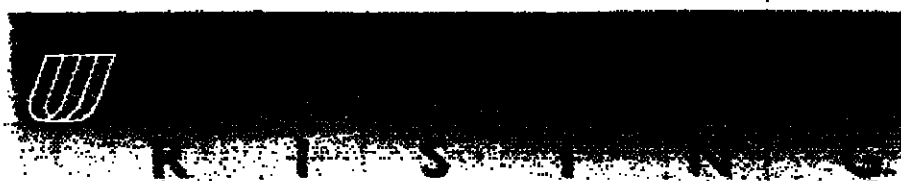
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'Brightest and best' grammar pupils killed when driver lost control at excessive speed, inquest is told

Crash girls died in blaze as they tried to flee car

By PAUL WILKINSON

THREE schoolgirls who died in a road accident survived the crash but were killed when their car burst into flames as they tried to scramble clear, an inquest was told yesterday. Their friend, who was driving, died instantly when the car hit a tree head-on.

The sixth-formers, described as four of the "brightest and best", were returning to school from a lunchtime visit to a country pub when Samantha Brearley, 18, who had passed her test only eight months before, took a bend at an "excessive" speed and lost control.

One of the girls, Emma Freear, 18, a rear-seat passenger, was virtually uninjured by the impact, but died from inhaling toxic fumes from the fire. Her body was found half-out of the door of the Peugeot 106 Rallye hatchback.

Jocelyn Bancroft, 17, had internal injuries and Claire Jennings, 18, had broken ribs and legs. They had managed



Claire Jennings, pinned in ditch by wreck of car

to get out of the wreck, but were trapped when it slid down the side of a drainage ditch onto them. Both died from inhaling toxic fumes, Dr Carl Gray, a consultant pathologist, said.

All four were so badly burned that they could be identified only by DNA testing, Dr Gray found no traces of alcohol in their bodies and verdicts of accidental death were recorded by the coroner

in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, where the girls lived.

The girls, described by Kevin McAleese, the head at Harrogate Grammar School, as "four of our brightest and best pupils" had been on a lunchtime outing with six friends in a convoy of three cars on a sunny day last March. They were the last to leave The Sun pub in the village of Norwood four miles from the school to return for lessons. As a result, said Colin Moore, the Harrogate Coroner: "Nobody actually saw the collision and we are working from opinions and assumptions."

Colin Sandercock, a crash investigator with North Yorkshire Police, said that the impact damage indicated that the three-year-old car had been travelling at speed. The vehicle's battery and a headlamp were found 20 yards away in a field and the engine had been driven through the bulkhead to where the gear lever was normally positioned. He was unable to

assess the speed because of an absence of braking marks on the road, indicating there had been little or no attempt to slow down. Other marks made by the wheels indicated the vehicle had yawed violently as the driver attempted to correct its direction.

The vehicle had crossed the opposite carriageway, dislodging two boulders on the kerbside, one weighing 75lb and embedded 6 in deep. That had caused the car to take off, flying 20ft across the ditch and hitting the tree more than 4ft above its base.

It then spun 180 degrees, and slid into the ditch. Mr Sandercock believed the fire had started when brake fluid fell on hot engine parts.

"It would have burned with sufficient intensity in that confined area to have ignited petrol vapour leaking from the fuel injection system and other combustible materials in a very short time," he said. The flames spread quickly to the rest of the car, fanned by a strong wind. Firemen who



Jocelyn Bancroft, Emma Freear and Samantha Brearley: died on way back to school from lunchtime outing

arrived at the scene ten minutes later were confronted with a fireball seven metres wide.

Mr Sandercock said the car was mechanically sound. "There is no question that speed was a factor in this crash," he said. "This car is built for speed, it does 0 to 60 mph in 9.3 seconds, its sales literature says it was

born and bred from competition."

"There is a possibility Samantha Brearley was distracted or confused by some incident either inside or outside the vehicle. We shall never know, but it seems she was in the wrong position to take the bend. The excessive speed and the loss of control obviously produced a hazard

to be negotiated, which proved to be beyond her capacities."

After the hearing, attended by the parents of all the girls, Mr McAleese said: "This has shown that it was a simple, sad accident, which could have happened at any time."

"I am still considering the question of whether I should allow sixth-form students to bring cars to school, but after

hearing the evidence today, my first inclination is not to change that policy. It is all part of preparing our young people for the outside world."

"The school will never be the same. We shall not forget these girls. A fund to commemorate their lives stands at £6,000 and we shall decide later this year on what sort of memorial we shall provide."

Safety alert over new Rolls-Royce jet engines

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

AIR safety authorities in Hong Kong have ordered airlines operating Rolls-Royce-powered Airbus A330 jets to stay within an hour's flying time of land after a series of engine shutdowns. Cathay Pacific and Dragonair — the first two operators of the Trent 700 engine which Rolls-Royce believes could be a world-beater — have reported problems with oil pressure.

Pilots of two Cathay Pacific Airbus A330-300 twin-engine long-range jets were forced to shut down an engine this month when the oil pressure suddenly dropped. One aircraft had to be diverted and the other turned back. Each had to land on one engine.

Cathay has had a total of three engine shutdowns on the A330 since the jets went into service at the end of last year and its subsidiary Dragonair has seen one.

A Rolls-Royce spokesman said yesterday the problem had been identified and a solution was being worked on. Investigators found metal contamination in a gearbox not produced by Rolls-Royce. The company has received orders for 168 of the engines with a further 18 options.

Teenager claims film drove him to robbery

By ADRIAN LEE

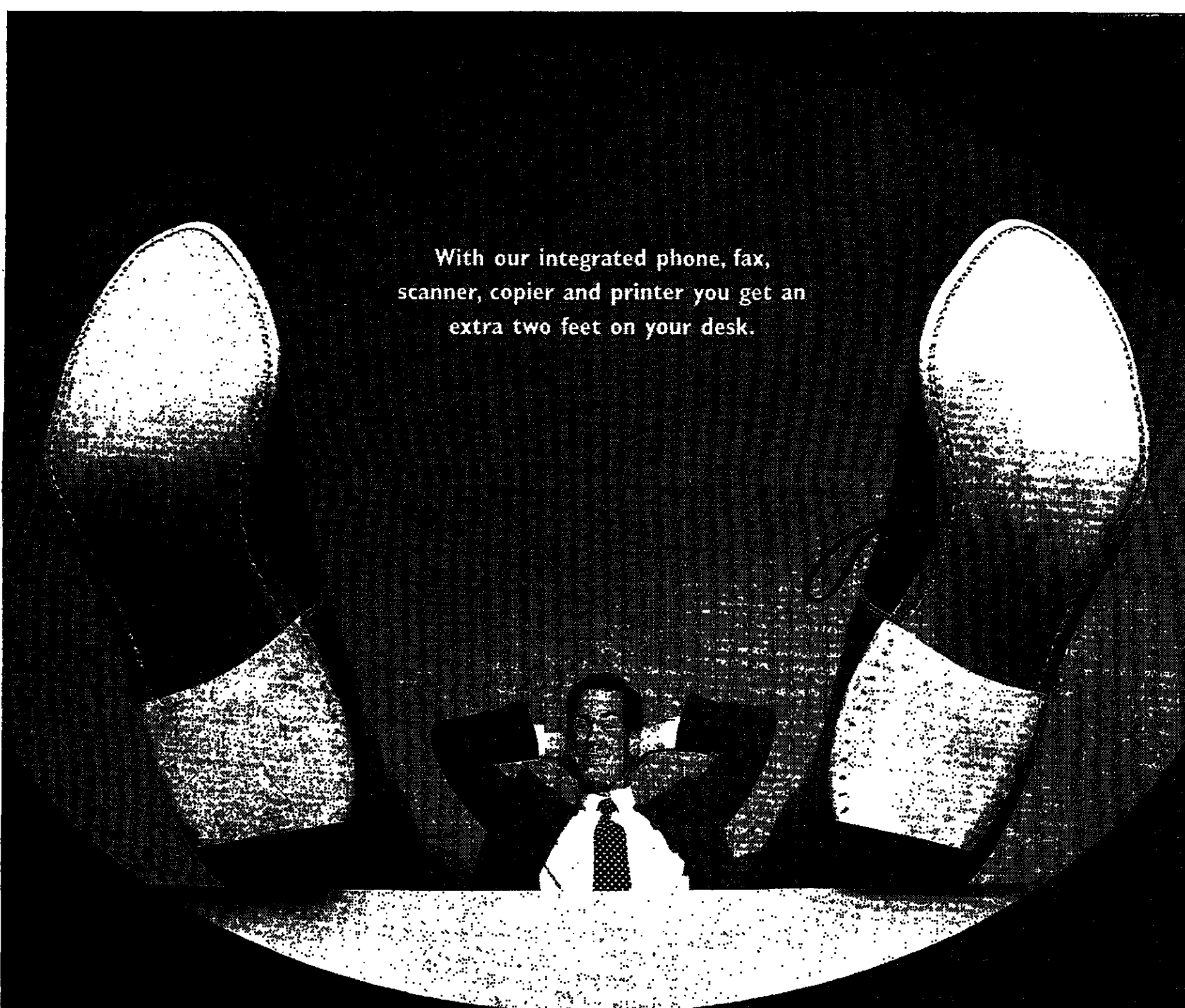
A TEENAGER who robbed a petrol station at gunpoint claimed that a violent film had incited him.

A court was told that Daniel Pridmore, 17, normally gentle and childlike, held up the petrol station after taking drugs and watching a video of *New Jack City*, a story of street drug wars in America. He pointed an imitation pistol at a female cashier, saying: "Do you want to die?" She was so traumatised that she required two months of work.

After giving himself up, Pridmore told police: "I'm not really a villain. I was watching a video where a man robs a shop. That's what made me do it."

Yesterday, at Northampton Crown Court, he was sentenced to two years' youth custody after admitting robbery. The court was told that he had stolen, in April last year, by leaving money given to him for his birthday in envelopes at the garage.

Stephen Ferguson, for Pridmore, said: "He is a gentle boy and cannot fathom why he did this." Judge Crane said: "You are not in the usual run of young thugs but you did commit a serious offence."



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Yasser Arafat, who said the law on land sales had been imposed by Jordan in 1967

Arafat threatens to execute Arabs who sell land to Jews

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL is to appeal to the United Nations Committee on Human Rights against the decision by Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority to impose the death penalty on any local Arab who sells land to Jews.

The Israeli move yesterday came after the suspected murder of two West Bank land agents by Palestinians in Ramallah and the announcement of the disappearance of a third in Nablus, who police fear may also have been killed.

Danny Naveh, the Israeli Cabinet Secretary and chairman of the government committee established to monitor anti-Semitism, said: "The decision is in essence racist and racist of anti-Semitism."

Israel radio claimed that three years ago the UN committee had pledged to take action against anti-Semitic acts.

the death penalty. He did not say how the executions would be conducted.

Last night fears were rising about the possibility of more killings sanctioned by the Palestinian Authority after Arab residents of Hebron disclosed that, in recent days, 15 local Palestinians had been arrested by the Palestinian security services on suspicion of selling property to Jewish settlers.

Mr Arafat claimed that the death penalty for selling Arab land to Jews was not new to the West Bank, but had been imposed by Jordan in 1967 after Israel's capture of the territory. He also claimed that prosecuting those who sold land to Jews was a legitimate defence against Israeli policies.

"Israel has always confiscated land from Arabs and dispossessed them of their property," Mr Arafat said. "The land always goes from the Arabs to the Jews. Can a

Palestinian resident of Nablus or Hebron buy land in Israel? Therefore, what should we call those from our nation who serve Israel's policy of stripping property? We are talking about a few traitors and we will apply what has been determined by law against them."

6 We are talking about traitors and we will apply what has been determined by law against them

obligation to protect our land." Israeli legal sources said that in the Jordanian era, about 200 death sentences had been imposed by Amman in absentia, but had never been carried out because Jordan had no access to the West Bank after its conquest.

Sheikh Sabri Akramia, the Palestinian Authority Mufti of Jerusalem, said that anyone executed for selling land to the

Israelis would be refused burial in a Muslim cemetery. "The religious edict was issued against land dealers 70 years ago. Recently we revived it. Whoever is found selling land to Jews deserves to die. He may not be prayed over, his body may not be purified before burial and he may not be buried in a Muslim cemetery. It is our duty to remind the public of this religious law so as not to enable the Jews to purchase Arab land and property with dollars that they receive from America in order to remove us from this land."

Land, which has always been at the core of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, has become even more explosive an issue because of the expansionist settlement policy of Benjamin Netanyahu, the right-wing Israeli Prime Minister.

Palestinians are angry because they see their hopes of establishing a state in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem threatened by continued Jewish building in those areas, often on land sold by Arabs. More than 70 per cent of land at the contested new settlement site of Har Homa was originally purchased from local Palestinians by Jews.

Avigdor Kahalani, the Interior Security Minister, reacted bitterly to the interview, which gave the full weight of the Palestinian Authority to executions of land dealers.

Speaking in the Knesset, Mr Kahalani said: "The Palestinian leader's remarks could unleash a wave of violence in the autonomous areas which would be unable to control." He added that they could also be exploited by those wishing to settle scores.

Relatives of Farid Bashiri, 70, the first land dealer executed after being lured from an east Jerusalem hotel to Ramallah by a female Palestinian agent on May 8, were unable for nearly two weeks to find anywhere to bury him.

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Hardliner poised to win Iran presidency

FROM MICHAEL THERODOULOU IN NICOSIA

IRANISANS choose a new President tomorrow after a lively campaign that saw a real contest for the first time since the 1979 revolution when the all-powerful Ayatollah Khomeini ensured that no divisions emerged under his leadership.

The two leading contenders are both 54-year-old clerics who have pledged their allegiance to Islamic rule. Whoever wins will have to manoeuvre carefully between many power centres, including charitable and security institutions that often operate independently of the presidency and the Government, itself riven by rival factions.

For these reasons, the new President is not expected to change foreign policy or overturn decisions such as Khomeini's fatwa for the killing of Salman Rushdie, the British author of *The Satanic Verses*. Hardline newspapers have challenged the presidential hopefuls to declare whether they intend to implement the death sentence.

But the vote, in which all mentally healthy Iranians over the age of 15 are eligible to take part, could have important consequences for how Iran's 64 million people live.

The frontrunner is Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri, a hardline cleric whose position as parliamentary Speaker has guaranteed him vital prime-time television coverage for many years. A shrewd political operator, he has the tacit support of the country's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, and of the majority conservative faction in parliament. His campaign was also backed by most of the powerful religious foundations.

A landslide victory had seemed likely while more moderate groups were unable to agree on a candidate to challenge him. That changed when a former Culture Minister, Sayed Muhammad Khatami, entered the race in March and rapidly gained ground. Opinion polls this week still tipped Khomeini's son-in-law, Nouri, to win, but some observers predict that he may first have to fight a run-off election against Khatami.

Food airlift for cyclone victims

Dhaka: Tens of thousands of people made homeless in Monday's cyclone faced a battle for survival on the 180-mile-long southern Bangladesh coast yesterday as rescue operations were stepped up (Ahmed Fazi writes). Army helicopters, flying repeated sorties from Dhaka, the capital, dropped food packages on villages cut off by fallen trees and uprooted electricity poles. On the coral island of St Martin's, the 150mph winds flattened huts and snapped the only telecommunications link with the mainland. Most islanders had taken shelter in concrete anti-cyclone enclosures after a tropical storm in 1991 killed more than 300 people. But most of the inhabitants had their fishing boats and nets destroyed, taking away their only means of livelihood. Neighbouring islanders suffered a similar fate. Yesterday the official death toll along the coast reached 95 with more than 8,000 injured, but Western aid workers believe these figures underestimate the number of those killed.

Colony rejects Beijing line

Hong Kong: The Legislative Council here has voted that the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests should be "vindicated", rejecting Beijing's judgement that they were a counter-revolutionary incident (Jonathan Miskay writes). Most of the pro-China members of the council stayed away, it was claimed, because they had condemned the protests eight years ago but did not dare to do so again.

Classroom rape claim

New York: Three teenagers took turns raping a 14-year-old girl in a classroom last month as a fourth held her down, prosecutors here claimed. The alleged attack took place in a classroom that was being renovated. Two of the suspects went to a guidance counsellor's office for condoms before the attack. *The New York Times* reported. In statements, the suspects claim that the girl had consented to sex. (AP)

Dissidents held in Burma

Rangoon: Burma's military junta has begun to arrest supporters of Aung San Suu Kyi, right, the democracy leader, to prevent another gathering of her political party, one of her aides said. The London-based Amnesty International said at least 50 of her followers had been arrested by the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council. It called for their "immediate and unconditional release". (AP)

Chechens win apology

Moscow: Russia officially apologised to Chechnya after its fighters intercepted and turned back a plane carrying Valcha Arsanov, the Chechen Vice-President, as he flew to The Hague for a conference (Richard Beeson writes). After threats of reprisals, the Kremlin promised that Chechen officials would be allowed to travel without interference.

9m dodgers tracked down

Delhi: More than nine million people were caught travelling illegally on Indian trains in a year, the Government said. The Railways Ministry said that a crackdown on fare dodgers earned the network more than £16 million, but nearly 70,000 people who could not pay fines were jailed. (AFP)

Berlusconi's TV channel is carrying on up the Tiber

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALIAN television viewers are to be treated to a "soap opera in togas", detailing the ups and downs of two families in ancient Rome.

Filming began this week on the 13-part soap, entitled *SPQR*, which is to be shown on prime-time television in the autumn. The makers hope to sell the series to other countries, including Britain, as a combination of entertainment and education.

Mediaset, the commercial channel owned by Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon and former Prime Minister, hopes that *SPQR* will emulate the success of its spectacular — if rather rapid — game

shows, which have increasingly forced the state-run channel RAI to go down-market.

La Stampa said that what it called "Dynamite on the Tiber" was a story of betrayal, lust, class conflict, corrupt politicians, rigged elections, tax evasion and unmarried girls who became pregnant "just like our own times really."

SPQR, which stands for *Senatus Populusque Romanus* (the Roman Senate and People), was the weighty formula that expressed the ancient Roman balance of power.

It has long been devalued however, and can be seen today to the horror of purists on drains, manhole covers, street signs and lamp-posts as the logo of modern Rome's city administration.

The series, which is being made at the Cinecittà studios, boasts 168 characters and a budget of £6 million. Many of the "outside locations" are conveniently near at hand and therefore low-cost, including the Appian Way, the Forum and the Colosseum.

"We're not exactly short of authentic sites," Claudio Risi, the director, said. The makers are also using the classical facade of the British School in Rome, which looks the part but dates from 1911.



A police officer is confronted by a Colonia Dignidad member during the raid

German sect chief hunted on Chilean sex abuse charges

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

CHILEAN police searched yesterday for the leader of a far-right German sect who is suspected of systematically abusing children behind the walls of his heavily guarded compound in a remote valley in the Andes.

The search for Paul Schaefer, 76, ended fruitlessly — his settlement covers 32,000 acres and has many hiding places — but the days of the notorious Colonia Dignidad seem to be numbered.

Founded in 1961 by Herr Schaefer, a lay preacher from a small town near Bonn, and about 200 ethnic Germans, the colony has been protected by successive Chilean governments. Under General Augusto Pinochet, Chilean secret

police took left-wing dissidents, hooded and handcuffed, to the compound near Parí, 300 miles south of Santiago, and tortured them with electric cattle prods. Rumours, never confirmed, suggested that veteran Nazis sheltered there. The inhabitants, who now call the settlement Villa Baviera (Bavarian town), enjoyed a long, strange relationship with members of the Bavarian Christian Social Union, some of whom were treated as honoured guests.

Convoys of police are stationed near the entrance, helicopters are clattering overhead and tension is in the air. Members of the sect's 50-strong black-shirted security brigade smashed the cameras

of a German television team. The paedophile charges have brought the future of this odd settlement into the spotlight.

Two German and two Chilean members of the community surrendered to police last week to face charges, including the illegal detention of a child and obstruction of justice. All four were released on bail. The strong disapproval of the Roman Catholic Church has swayed many politicians who were previously ready to support, or at least tolerate, the colony.

On the surface it seemed to be having a benign influence on a desperately poor area. The community hospital has the latest drugs, the boarding school offers free education to



The Colonia Dignidad choir during a performance last year. The sect's leadership rejects all the paedophile accusations made against it

selected local children. The choir is trained to sing German songs. Villa Baviera creates jobs. The local bakery does a roaring trade in brown bread baked to a Bavarian recipe. Over the years, right-wing Chilean politicians have visited the colony and come away impressed by its cleanliness and order. But behind the facade, the disciplined followers of the sect had set up a paedophile community. This has emerged from the evi-

dence of several children and mothers who, unlike others abused in the past, are now willing to take on Herr Schaefer's lawyers.

The old edifice of political protection has collapsed. Since the end of dictatorship in 1989, various vain attempts have been made to prosecute the colony on tax and fraud charges. But now a senior judge, Hernán González, has been appointed by the Santiago Government and a lawyer

has been found to fight the case of the abused children: 40 investigations have been opened into the colony's affairs, including accusations of kidnapping, illegal adoption and sexual abuse. The Germans deny everything.

The children, aged between eight and 12 years, say they were bathed by Herr Schaefer, given two glasses of a spiced drink, smeared with disinfectant and then raped. Doctors have confirmed the injuries.

The children are now back with their mothers.

Herr Schaefer, easily identified by the adult torture victims of the 1970s because of his glass eye, dominating manner, and German-accented Spanish, left Germany after being suspected of child abuse and collected around him former members of his parish. Most were ethnic Germans from Ukraine or Romania.

Many hundreds of children have passed through the Ger-

man school over the past decades. The scale of the abuse is still unclear although, judging by the cases dug up by the defence lawyer, it appears to have been part of the community from the beginning.

Last November the Chilean authorities — a judge accompanied by 300 police officers — tried and failed to serve an arrest warrant on Herr Schaefer. Now a bigger action is being planned, perhaps with a force of 2,000.

Texas sex offenders offered castration

BY BRONWEN MADDOX

TEXAS this week became the first state to offer sex offenders surgical castration in prison to help them not to commit more crimes when released.

George Bush Jr, the Governor and a likely contender for the Republican presidential nomination in 2000, signed a Bill allowing repeat offenders to ask for the operation.

Mr Bush, who is the son of the former President, said that the offer was directed towards people "too sick to cure their illness". If this legislation saves just one child from the horror

of a sexual assault, it will have accomplished its purpose.

California introduced a similar law this year for sex offenders to undergo chemical castration. Under the Texas law, offenders would have to admit their guilt, be screened by a psychiatrist and psychologist, and then give written consent.

Inmates would not be able to ask for castration in return for shorter sentences or parole. Last year a child molester asked to be castrated, but the Texas authorities refused.



Davide Sorrenti, whose youthful looks were caused by a blood disorder, with his girlfriend, James King

Death sparks attack on 'heroin chic'

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

THE death of a young fashion photographer from a heroin overdose has jolted fashion houses into re-examining the cult of "heroin chic" and prompted an extraordinary attack on the industry by President Clinton.

"The glorification of heroin is not creative, it's destructive", Mr Clinton said yesterday in Washington. He said some fashion leaders "are admitting flat-out that images projected in fashion photos in the last few years have made heroin addiction seem glamorous and sexy and cool. And as some of the people in those

images start to die now, it's become obvious that is not true."

Mr Clinton's onslaught delivered to an audience of mayors, was provoked by a New York Times feature on Tuesday on the death of Davide Sorrenti, 20, a promising photographer who died on February 4. Sorrenti specialised in portraits of hollow-cheeked models slumped on bathroom floors as if in a drugged stupor.

For three years, "heroin chic" has reigned over fashion magazines, with editors arguing that it represented a

refreshing antidote to airbrushed perfection.

Critics of the fad have homed in on Calvin Klein, who has featured pale, wasted models in high-profile advertising campaigns. They point out that Mr Klein himself checked into the Hazelden Foundation, the drug and rehabilitation centre outside Minneapolis, in May 1983.

ED, the British magazine, is credited with being one of the first to feature the look. But, according to photographers, it has now turned its back on the approach. That shift will come too late

for Sorrenti. His mother, Francesca, also a front-rank fashion photographer, described the family as "the Corleones" of fashion photography, referring to their influence in the industry. Sorrenti's older brother, Mario, rose to prominence when he photographed the Calvin Klein Obsession campaign, featuring Kate Moss, his girlfriend at the time.

Mr Sorrenti suffered from thalassemia, a genetic blood disorder requiring blood transfusions twice a month, which made him look just on the edge of puberty.

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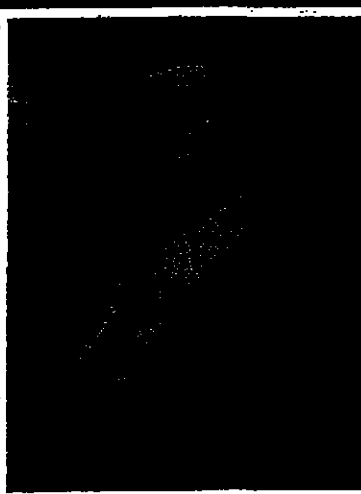
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THE KILLING OF MR GEORGE

It could have been a storyline from one of his plays. Yet the violent death of British Broadway actor George Rose was all too real

PLUS a special report on post-traumatic stress disorder. Is it all it's cracked up to be?

THE SUNDAY TIMES & THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Northern Afghan towns fly Taliban's white flag

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ISLAMABAD

TOWNS in at least three of the six provinces controlled by the military alliance in northern Afghanistan, have switched allegiance to the fundamentalist Taliban militia, whose plain white flag now flies over more than two thirds of a destroyed, but largely pacified, country.

Tanks and artillery are being positioned by the Islamic army in readiness for what could be a decisive push towards the mud-brick northern capital city of Mazar-i-Sharif. Its fall would clinch the conquest of Afghanistan by one of the most remarkable and mysterious armies ever to march through the country since Alexander the Great's invasion 2,400 years ago.

General Abdul Sharif Dostum, the Uzbek warlord who leads the northern forces, admitted that his western defences had collapsed. He is reinforcing the boundaries of what remains of his empire after key commanders defected to Taliban.

Russia has for months been



pouring in secondhand tanks and other weapons to bolster the north and may also have a small number of troops on the ground. Northern forces have received military assistance from Uzbekistan and Tajikistan and enjoy the moral support of India, such is the fear of Islamic fundamentalists establishing themselves in the heart of Central and Southern Asia.

General Abdul Malik, a former Dostum commander who is leading the revolt of

northern troops, may have been motivated for money — Taliban routinely buys off its enemies — or because of a blood feud. His brother, a prominent Dostum commander, was murdered last year after a row with the general. This demands retribution under the Afghan code of honour, perhaps explaining the rebellion, timed to coincide with the arrival of good fighting weather.

General Malik's assertion that he is pro-Taliban is not

totally convincing. The coming weeks will determine whether General Malik, an Uzbek, is a true or opportunistic convert to the largely Pashtun Islamic army.

Taliban will quickly seek to secure the rebel northern provinces that were under General Dostum's control, assuming they are allowed by General Malik to do so.

This would represent another largely bloodless victory for Taliban, which began advancing through the country from the south three years ago. Never in the history of Afghanistan, ravaged by despots such as Tamerlane and Genghis Khan, has so much territory been won with so little bloodshed.

The north's capture would exacerbate ideological conflicts in Taliban, a divided movement trying to reconcile the ultra-conservative views of mullahs from the southern province of Kandahar with the less orthodox Islamic practices of other areas. The north, used to a liberal regime, would not succumb easily to the scriptures of Kandahari conservatives.



Wheelchair-bound "Share a Smile Becky", a new member of the Barbie doll family, was launched in Washington yesterday. "Barbie's friend with a disability" is meant to change children's attitudes

Harvard scholars accused of abusing America's trust

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE United States has suspended a \$14 million (£8.5 million) contract with Harvard University, alleging that two senior American advisers to the Russian Government abused their positions to profit from investments in Russia's securities market.

The final instalment of a \$57 million grant awarded to the Harvard Institute for International Development, the contract was part of a programme to fund work by American scholars in helping Russian officials with privatisation, reform of the country's legal system and the creation of its stock market.

In a letter to Harvard, the US Agency for International Development, an arm of the State Department, said a preliminary investigation had found fault with both Jonathan Hay, the institute's director in Moscow, and Andrei Shleifer, a Harvard economics professor and the project director. "[They] have abused the trust of the United States Government by using personal relationships, on occasion,

for private gain," the letter said.

Mr Hay was said to have used the agency's funds to support the private investment activities of Nancy Zimmerman, Professor Shleifer's wife. Specifically, the letter said, support staff paid by United States government funds bought and sold Russian bonds, tracked deposits and withdrawals from the investments' Russian bank accounts, and consulted about tax liabilities and additional investment opportunities.

Michael Butler, a Washington lawyer who represents Professor Shleifer and Mr Hay, said the government letter was "wrong in its conclusions, wrong in its assumptions, wrong in its facts and foolish in its rhetoric."

He said Ms Zimmerman had invested through ILBE Consulting, a profit-making subsidiary of the Harvard Russia project. The consultancy, he said, was established to help the Harvard programme to become self-sufficient.



Flinn: "unfairly singled out" by the air force

Adultery trial for US pilot

FROM IAN BRIDIE IN WASHINGTON

THE US Air Force was accused yesterday of applying double standards in deciding to court-martial Lieutenant Kelly Flinn, its first woman B52 pilot, for adultery with a civilian.

Her lawyer, Frank Spinner, said most adultery cases involving male pilots were dealt with by commanding officers in unpublished, non-judicial procedures and resulted in counselling, reprimands or fines. He said it was unfair to make her submit to a public trial.

The lieutenant, based in North Dakota, had asked Sheila Widnall, Secretary of the Air Force, for an honourable discharge instead of a trial.

Trent Lott, the Senate Republican leader, said Lieutenant Flinn was unfairly singled out. He threatened to take the case to William Cohen, the Defence Secretary, if it was not resolved soon.

Clinton U-turn on funding details

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

THE White House has agreed to surrender thousands of documents about fundraising for last November's presidential election to a congressional committee, in a sudden reversal of its recent hardline stance.

The concession, made to avoid a citation for contempt of Congress, is likely to trigger a flood of new allegations about inappropriate fundraising practices, including links with Chinese companies.

Dan Burton, the chairman of the House government reform and oversight committee, said the deal to hand more than 2,000 pages of documents was struck after seven hours of talks between White House officials and committee lawyers. The committee is examining whether donations to President Clinton's campaign and to the Democratic National Committee were illegal contributions from foreign citizens, as well as other alleged campaign law abuses.

In a continuation of the Whitewater affair that dogged Mr Clinton's first term, the committee is also investigating whether White House officials helped to arrange jobs for Webster Hubbell, a close friend of Mr Clinton's who was convicted on Whitewater charges, and if so, their motive for doing so.

Mr Burton, who called the White House move "a victory for the people's right to know", said he was not sure when public hearings would start.

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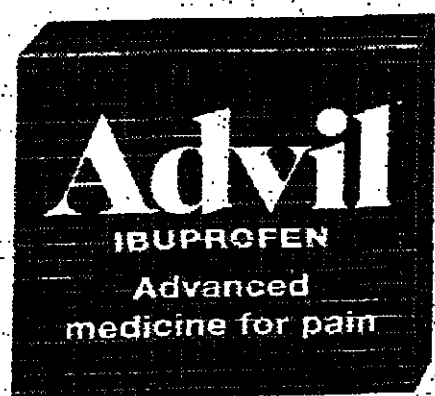
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18 OVERSEAS NEWS

Japan's Lima envoy 'treated like war criminal' by Tokyo

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

TOKYO'S Ambassador to Peru, who was sacked last week after the Lima hostage crisis, said yesterday that he had survived the four-month ordeal only to be treated like a war criminal.

Morihiro Aoki was hailed as a hero at first for protecting fellow hostages after Tupac Amaru guerrillas seized guests attending a reception he held last December. But on his return to Japan, he was blamed for security lapses that had allowed the Marxist rebels to storm his residence.

Writing in yesterday's *Asahi Shimbun*, Mr Aoki criticised his detractors and gave his side of the story. "I was heralded as a 'samurai ambassador' during captivity and treated like an A-class war criminal after I got back to Japan," wrote Mr Aoki, who is descended from a samurai warrior family. "I am neither a hero, nor a coward."

He also took issue with critics who were displeased by

his combative manner at a televised news conference held only hours after the hostages were rescued. Media reports accused him of arrogance for not apologising for the crisis and even of lacking dignity by smoking four cigarettes during the 30-minute session.

"At the news conference I wanted to convey to the world that the Japanese are not weaklings who get into a panic after long captivity," Mr Aoki wrote. The dismissed ambassador acknowledged that some of the Japanese businessmen among the 72 hostages had criticised his failure to negotiate with the rebels. "But as the incident dragged on, the one overriding duty of a hostage was to stay alive and healthy," Mr Aoki wrote, defending his stance. "A hostage was really in no position to negotiate with terrorists."

He also rejected criticism that he had given the guerrillas an obvious target by inviting 500 guests to a reception

on December 17 to celebrate the Emperor's birthday. "I cannot escape responsibility for letting the incident happen, but security [in Peru] had definitely got better and inviting as many people as possible was a natural choice."

The siege ended on April 22 when Peruvian commandos attacked the residence and rescued most of the hostages. Two commandos, a hostage and all 14 rebels were killed.

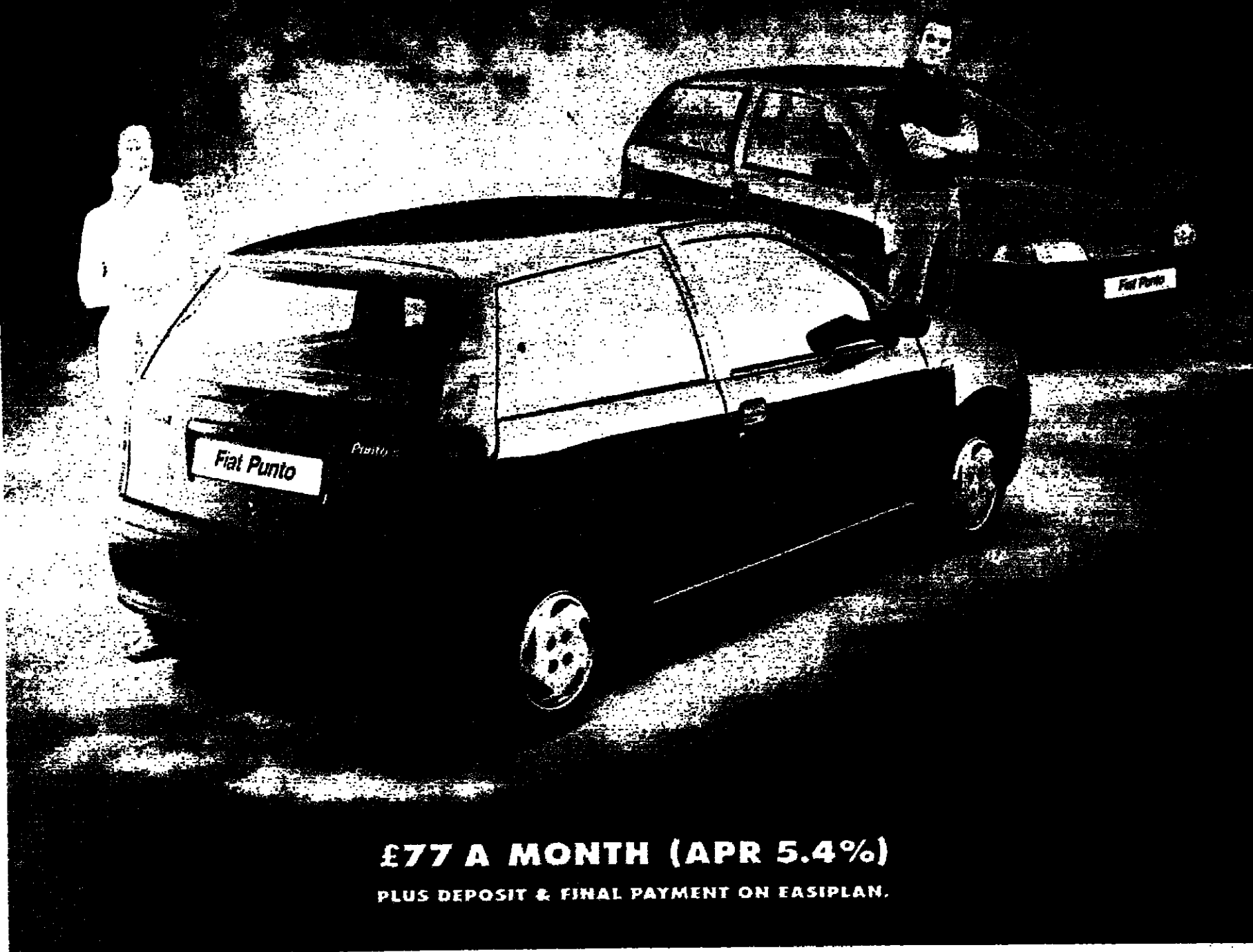
Peru told Mr Aoki yesterday that it intended to award him a medal for his handling of the hostage crisis. Victor Arimari, the Peruvian Ambassador to Japan, visited Mr Aoki at his Tokyo home to give him a letter from President Fujimori.

□ Rome: Felicitas Cartolini, the mother of Nestor Cerpa Cartolini, the Peruvian guerrilla leader killed during the storming of Mr Aoki's residence in Lima, told a press conference here yesterday that 30 bullets had been fired into his head. (Reuters)



Water colours: an artist works on a panel depicting the Indian Ocean at the Oceanarium, which will be one of the main attractions at Lisbon's world fair, Expo 98. The Oceanarium will house some 25,000 specimens of 300 species when the fair opens in May next year

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Australia decrees migrant cutback Pommies fair game for the Aussies

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA is to make another significant cut in its intake of immigrants, reducing the annual total by 8 per cent to 68,000.

The family reunion category, which has favoured Asian migrants in recent years, will be particularly hit, with numbers reduced by 23 per cent. Instead there will be a greater emphasis on those migrants with attractive work skills.

Philip Ruddock, the Immigration Minister, admitted that the cutback derived from concern over Australia's unemployment, which currently stands at 8.5 per cent.

The announcement fuelled speculation that the conservative Government was bowing to pressure from Pauline Hanson, an anti-Asian politician who wants a ban on further immigration until unemployment comes down. Latest opinion polls suggest that Ms Hanson, who launched her own One Nation party last month, could hold the balance of power in Australia's Upper House at the next election.

Last night, Mrs Hanson welcomed the move. Mr Ruddock denied the Government was bowing to pressure.

Sydney: British migrants in Australia who take offence at being called a Pom have effectively been told they should not be so sensitive (Roger Maynard writes).

After years of being branded whingers, the people who founded the country will have to take it on the chin. The term Pom is not racially offensive or even a minor insult, according to an official ruling. So forget all the jokes about a Pommy's towel (mainly dry) and a Pommy's wash (a rub with a wet sponge).

The Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission has ruled that the word is acceptable when referring to those of British extraction. It follows a complaint to the *Brisbane Courier Mail* in Queensland over the apparently derogatory use of the word. One reader protested to the commission.

Now Sir Ronald Wilson, who heads the body, has ruled that publication of the words Pom or Pommy should not "offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate" people from Britain.

The word is believed to be an abbreviation of the term given to convicts transported to Australia - Prisoner of His Majesty.

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British Marines arrested after Brazzaville clash

FROM DAVID ORR IN KINSHASA

FOUR Royal Marines were detained by Congolese police yesterday after a confrontation with an angry crowd near the American Embassy in Brazzaville, the capital.

During the incident shots were fired into the air by the police to disperse the crowd as they tried to reach the Marines.

The four are among 500 British military personnel in the region who had been preparing for a possible evacuation of Britons and Commonwealth citizens from neighbouring Zaire, as rebel forces approached Kinshasa. Zaire has since been renamed the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The evacuation force is now due to return to Britain after a decision that an evacuation was unnecessary because of the peaceful handover of power in Kinshasa.

The Ministry of Defence in London and the British Em-

bassy in Kinshasa said the four Marines had been "apprehended" after a "misunderstanding" with the crowd.

British officials denied that the Marines had stolen a car. No one was injured when the shots were fired. An MoD spokesman said British Embassy officials were trying to free the four. About 220 of the 500 British troops in the region have been based in Brazzaville.

Across the Congo River in Kinshasa yesterday, soldiers of the defeated Zairean Armed Forces continued to surrender their weapons. Two of the ousted regime's top generals also gave themselves up. General Amela Lokima, deputy Army Chief of Staff and military governor of Kinshasa, and Michel Ellesi, commander of the gendarmerie in Kinshasa, handed themselves in.

Most leading figures in the regime of former President

Mobutu have followed the deposed dictator into exile. "Those who don't have clean hands have fled to Brazzaville and beyond," said a diplomatic source in Kinshasa. "The two generals who surrendered were not known to be involved in illegal activities, so probably had little to fear."

Military intelligence sources indicate that many generals in the old government forces were involved in extortion, protection rackets, smuggling and arms dealing.

"We'll probably see more people emerging from their hiding places," said another diplomatic source. "The only problem is that some people are keeping their arms. There's still some looting going on in the suburbs at night. We can't talk of total security yet, that could take some weeks."

After the assassination of two French businessmen on Tuesday, there have been



Lorries filled with conquering soldiers drive through Kinshasa yesterday. They have been gathering weapons held by former government troops

fears of more attacks on Westerners. France, a long-time ally of President Mobutu, is being openly vilified now that the dictator has been ousted.

However, a French diplo-

mat denied that a concerted campaign against French residents of Kinshasa was underway or that the assassinations had struck fear into the capital's French community. "Some people have been af-

fected by what happened," he said, "but others are not unduly worried."

Laurent Kabila's forces have been touring Kinshasa gathering weapons and stacking them at collection points.

It has yet to be established whether members of Mr Mobutu's forces will be integrated into a national army. Some, particularly members of the once-feared presidential guard, have been detained.

Many of the rebel forces are young, and some are in their early teens. The core of Mr Kabila's army comes from the east and is associated with the Tutsi ethnic group of eastern Zaire and Rwanda.

Kabila set to disappoint hopes of broad-based Congo regime

By DAVID ORR

THERE is growing unease in the Democratic Republic of Congo that the transitional government of self-declared President Kabila will not be as inclusive as some hoped. A source in Laurent Kabila's rebel alliance has told *The Times* that Etienne Tshisekedi, the leading opposition politician, will not be favoured under the new order.

"There is no place for Tshisekedi," said the source. "He is a demagogue and a destabilising factor."

Since his arrival in Kinshasa the night before last, Mr Kabila has been holding talks with members of his inner circle about the formation of a new government.

Under President Mobutu, Mr Tshisekedi was three times named Prime Minister and three times sacked. His so-called radical opposition



Tshisekedi: sacked by Mobutu three times

party, the UDPS, expects to be widely represented in the new Cabinet, while Mr Tshisekedi has his eye set again on the office of Prime Minister.

Mr Tshisekedi enjoys considerable popularity among students and the intellectual

classes, but only in the capital and central Kasai province. His detractors regard him as an opportunist who is ready to sacrifice principles for the reward of political office.

"Tshisekedi has shown in the past that he doesn't have the interests of the country at heart," said the Kabila source. "He is a man of cheap talk. Like many others, he only thought of enriching himself. If he didn't work out under Mobutu, why should he work out for us?"

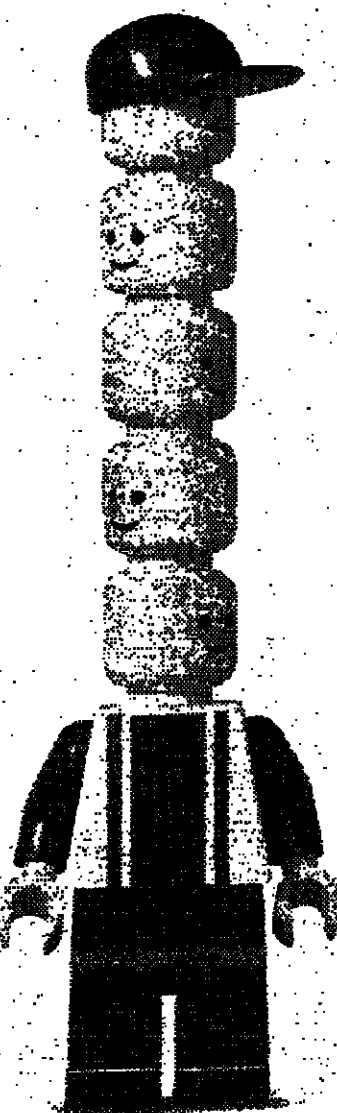
The United States, which was instrumental in persuading Mr Mobutu to exit, has been putting pressure on Mr Kabila to form a broad-based administration as possible. Diplomatic sources indicate, however, that the US is reluctant to put all its weight behind the failure-prone Mr Tshisekedi. Uganda is seen as the foremost model for Mr Kabila's rebel

alliance. Uganda's President Museveni, himself a former guerrilla leader and a supporter of Mr Kabila's insurgency, introduced the so-called "movement" system of government to Uganda in 1986. The system allows individuals to stand for election but precludes political parties.

Mr Kabila's rebel alliance promises to rebuild democracy at village level and stresses the need for widespread political re-education of the peasantry. The people enjoyed little democracy under 32 years of rule by Mr Mobutu.

The hierarchy of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire comprises both moderate technocrats and radical ideologues of a socialist bent. Mr Kabila, a former Marxist, declares himself in favour of a free-market economy and elections "within a reasonable period".

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Worldwide battle against the stigma of epilepsy

Sometimes a single remark can cut right across a dinner party conversation. This happened a week or two ago when a middle-aged man described to his neighbour how he had recently had an epileptic seizure. The other guests at the table immediately fell silent, and then everybody started to talk at once to hide their embarrassment. Only I, who had a professional interest and was sorry not to hear the end of the story, and the man himself, seemed unconcerned. It would have been very different if the guest had admitted to having, for instance, rheumatoid arthritis or asthma, then boredom rather than embarrassment would have been the emotion evoked.

On June 19, the International League against Epilepsy, together with its lay counterpart, the International Bureau for Epilepsy and the World Health Organisation (WHO), are launching a global campaign against the worldwide problems occasioned by epilepsy. The launch is timed to take place before the World Congress on Epilepsy which is being held in Dublin at the end of June. The aim of the campaign is to improve the treatment and prevention of epilepsy as well as to foster better understanding of the condition so that those who have it are not rejected by society.

Epilepsy is the most common serious brain disorder in every country of the world. It can start at any age, it is universal, and has no geographical boundaries although it is twice as common in developing countries where the standards of obstetrics are low.

Although 5 per cent of people have a seizure at some time in their life, it carries with it a very deep stigma in all parts of the world, including much of western Europe. The International Bureau for Epilepsy claimed in a recent report that in one western European country it still accepted to beat an epileptic child after a fit in an attempt to discourage them from having them. The last law in the United Kingdom which prevented some patients with epilepsy from marrying was only repealed in 1970 and in parts of the Far East it is still regarded as a reasonable cause for annulment of a marriage, or a good reason for prohibiting it in the first place. In this respect the United States has an equally bad history. As late as 1956, 17 states still banned people with epilepsy from marrying, and in 18 states there was local government provision for the sterilisation of all people who had it. Only in 1980 did the last of the American states repeal legislation against marriage. In America, until 1970, patients with epilepsy were legitimately barred from public buildings, including restaurants. The approach was rather different in many parts of Africa where some communities regarded epilepsy as being infectious, so that the sufferers were banned



Dr Thomas Stuttaford on ignorance of epilepsy; lupus; remote monitoring of the heart; varicose veins; and life without stress

'It is still acceptable to beat a child after a fit'

from communal eating places, whereas in others attacks were thought to be either the work of the devil or an evil sorcerer.

It is counterproductive to suggest that uncontrolled epileptic seizures do not have profound effects on the physical and mental well-being of those who suffer them. Sudden unexpected death, the causes for which are not fully understood and therefore cannot necessarily be prevented, is the most serious complication of epilepsy. The tragedy is that treatment does not exist which could, in most cases, control seizures in three quarters of the people who have them.

Although the number of drugs available to treat epilepsy has improved in the past few years, the best way of using them has still to be evaluated.

Dr Ted Reynolds, director of the Institute of Epileptology at the Maudsley Hospital, London, and president of the International League against Epilepsy, said: "Doctors now understand the action of the older drugs against epilepsy, but we still lack accurate data comparing the four or five potent new drugs with each

other, and how they mix with the older drugs. Nor do we yet know about the effect of different combinations of drugs, whether new with new, or new with old."

Careful high quality MRI scanning has enabled the root cause, a focal lesion, to be pinpointed and removed surgically in some cases when medical treatment has inadequately controlled the seizures.

Recently there has been publicity about vagal nerve stimulation which, it is claimed, cuts the number of seizures suffered by some selected patients who have not adequately responded to drug therapy. The stimulation works in a similar way to that provided by a heart pacemaker. In vagal nerve stimulation a pulse generator is buried in the chest wall and passes electrical signals to the vagal nerve. Improvement is claimed to have occurred in a large proportion of the people who have been deemed suitable for the procedure, but Dr Reynolds gives it only a cautious welcome. "This is a novel American idea. Its benefit has still to be proven in controlled studies and nor, when there is apparent benefit, has its mode of action been adequately explained. New surgical techniques are not always subjected to the same rigorous evaluation which new drugs undergo."

There is no better example in levels of healthcare between the First and Third World than that displayed by the treatment of epilepsy. In Britain we are prepared to spend more than £6,200 on an operation for vagal nerve stimulation which is suitable for only a small number of selected patients and which is still of unproven value, whereas in the Third World, 40 million people with epilepsy have no treatment at all, not even daily phenobarbitone tablets, which don't cost more than a few pence per thousand.



Actress Mary McDonough, best known for her role in *The Waltons*, was ill for five years before lupus was diagnosed

Saved by the voice of reason

When a scientist, the mother of four children, said she could hear a voice telling her to commit suicide by jumping out of a train or, on another occasion, driving into a tree, her doctor thought she had schizophrenia. The woman was even more alarmed when the voice ordered her to murder her children. Since the birth of her fourth child, the 50-year-old woman had had a skin rash and joint pains, which had been described as rheumatism, but the voices, visions and the concept that someone else was in charge of her thoughts were new symptoms.

The patient had a scientist's analytical mind and when she told her story, movingly and compellingly, to a specialist, she told him she couldn't agree that she was a schizophrenic. Although she was convinced that the voices were real, she also thought that the murderous advice they gave was nonsensical. The patient's insight saved her life, and probably that of her children, because it prompted her to ask for an urgent hospital appointment. The specialist agreed that although the scientist had visual and auditory hallucinations, and suffered from thought broadcasting — the feeling that someone else controlled her

thoughts — she didn't have schizophrenia but had the cerebral effects of systemic lupus erythematosus, SLE. The disease not only affected her joints and skin, but also the blood vessels leading to the brain.

Lupus, SLE, does not usually present itself so dramatically, but if it remains undiagnosed, it is an incurable, sometimes fatal, disease of the immune system. Lupus predominantly affects young women — nine women are attacked by it for every man affected.

Professor David Isenberg of University College and Middlesex Hospitals, London, said most patients initially complained of joint pains, which were frequently misdiagnosed as rheumatoid arthritis. The joint pains are often associated with a skin rash. Like all doctors, I tend to expect the classic rash of lupus, affecting the upper cheeks and the bridge of the nose — a pattern resembling the body and wings of a butterfly. But the professor warns that the butterfly rash occurs in only 25 per cent of cases. Other patients have a red, raised rash, a discoid rash like eczema, anywhere on the body, but particularly on those

areas exposed to the sun. Ill-defined rashes on the sides of the palms, extending to the fingers, are also common.

Distinguishing SLE from rheumatoid arthritis is as important as it is difficult. Time, and the way the pattern of the disease develops, helps, but differences in the analysis of the blood, especially the difference in the levels of the rheumatoid factor, and tests for anti-nuclear antibodies, are of prime importance.

Early diagnosis of lupus is essential as appropriate treatment can limit damage to the kidneys — 30 per cent of patients are at risk of this — and complications affecting the lungs, heart, spleen, and, as in the scientist's case, the central nervous system.

Should a young woman be diagnosed while she is pregnant, the outlook for the child has been revolutionised by the discovery that a combination of aspirin and low molecular-weight heparin can be lifesaving.

From June 1-7, the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council For Research is campaigning to spread information about lupus as diagnosis is often missed until after irreparable damage has been done.

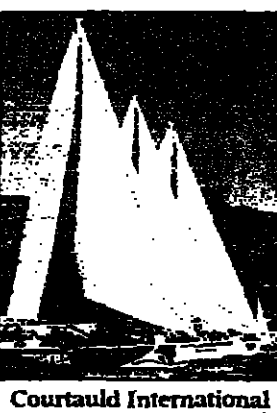
Patients can take heart from remote monitoring

The tracings from the ECGs were transmitted to doctors, and scientists thousands of miles away. The experiments were designed to determine whether

this equipment could be used to aid the diagnosis of people with suspicious cardiac symptoms who were out of range of a specialised unit when they were taken ill.

Dr Chauve's research may make it possible in future for a person with heart symptoms when in remote jungle, on a lonely mountainside, or at sea, to have their irregular rhythm analysed or chest pain diagnosed.

They could then be prescribed treatment by cardiologists working from a leading heart hospital.



Courtald International

ONE OF the BT Global Challenge Round the World Ocean Race yachts which sailed from Cape Town to Boston on May 4 outbid the other 14 competitors by having the most complicated computerised equipment on board. Dr Jean-Yves Chauve was on the Courtald International yacht, having gained special permission to carry an ECG machine, together with an extra computer and software to record the heart rate and rhythm of fellow crew members as they braved the waves and pulled upon the

Ten rules of varicose veins

OUTSIDE the consulting rooms of Mr Stanley Rivlin — one of London's best-known medical figures, and the surgeon who operated on Mrs Thatcher's veins — a rhododendron, which has starred at the Chelsea Flower Show, is in bloom. Naming it Stanley Rivlin was a thank-you gesture from a patient.

Mr Rivlin's contribution to society, however, will be his advice to patients with swollen legs and varicose veins.

Mr Rivlin issues patients with a card itemising the lifestyle to follow to minimise trouble. 1 Avoid standing still. Take a few steps whenever possible. 2 Wear lace-up shoes, never slippers (they don't encourage circulation). 3 Do not sit with legs crossed or tucked up under you. 4 Mr Rivlin disapproves of the advice "sit with your legs up". 5 Sit normally and now and again tap your heel on the ground as if beating time. 6 Don't go to sleep in an armchair. 7 Walk as much as you can. 8 Do not sit close to the fire. 9 Bath at night, not in the mornings. 10 If your feet swell, raise the foot of the bed with a nine-inch block.

High blood pressure — get thee to a nunnery

THE popular conception of life in a nunnery is that it offers peace, solitude and protection. It is assumed that nuns will live to a ripe old age as the lifestyle saves them from situations that play havoc with the blood pressure and cardiovascular system.

Over the past 30 years, a group of Italian research workers have been recording the blood pressure of 144 nuns, by now middle-aged, and comparing it with the blood pressure of women who are non-smokers and non-hormone users, but who have had to face the stresses and strains of daily life.

The quiet, unruffled existence of the convent proved just as beneficial to the heart and arteries as many would expect,

whereas the women "over the wall", who had to survive the stress created by living with husbands and children as well as the insecurity of the world, had twice as many heart attacks as the nuns, and their blood pressure increased as they grew older.

None of the nuns had a diastolic blood pressure which ever rose above 90. The objective of treating blood pressure is to keep the diastolic level, the lower of the two figures recorded, under 90. The research in the journal *Blood Pressure* confirms the importance of stress as a risk factor in coronary heart disease and the importance of lifestyle, as well as pills, in controlling blood pressure.

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WHAT ELSE?

Absolutely utterly fabulously fat

In praise of fat — Joe Joseph on the joys of the dreamily voluptuous woman

Are you one of those lucky people who can eat slabs of Belgian chocolate, gallons of ice cream with hot fudge sauce, acres of pork crackling and a whole cheesecake without it having any effect whatsoever on the shape of your body, apart from making you roughly the size of a small lunar spacecraft?

Then you are probably what is technically known as "fat". But don't worry. You're not alone. In Britain, 15 per cent of men and 16.5 per cent of women aged between 16 and 64 are not just overweight but obese — defined as being 20 per cent above ideal weight. If someone tries to bully you about your shape, stand up to them, providing you can get up, of course.

And don't be depressed by what happened to Ellene Kadden, the size 20 American who was ejected from Harrods on Monday for being too sore a sight for the eyes. Harrods is out of tune with current tastes. The store's boss, Mohamed Al Fayed, probably agrees with the Duchess of Windsor when she

said a woman could never be too rich or too thin, and what a strange lady she turned out to be.

Fat is not only fashionable and lovable, more and more people are wondering whether it might even be good for us. *Vogue's* June issue shows model Sara Morrison looking plump but also dreamily voluptuous in her little black dress. Sophie Dahl, Roald's granddaughter, is another giant peach of a model. She was voted one of *Loaded* readers' favourite babes.

Three-quarters of Samoan women are obese, and their men love them even more for it. It may be because — as a study at a Chicago hospital found — fat women have a greater sexual appetite than thin ones.

And how do you explain this? Petite Japanese women — including the country's top fashion models and actresses — go mad for sumo wrestlers, even though life as a sumo wife is not all sushi and cherry blossom. Sumo wrestlers are so fat that they can't actually wipe their own bottoms after visiting the loo: this

duty falls to one of the trainers who are in the sumo stable, but presumably wives have to step in when hubby is at home.

There's nothing novel about this fondness for fat. "Let me have men about me," said Julius Caesar. "Who are fat?" Father Christmas is a size 16 — is still rated as one of the world's sexiest women, and she's dead. Gérard Depardieu, who weighs 17 stone, is called the thinking woman's truck. Luciano Pavarotti is so fat that if he lay down on his tummy you could throw a tablecloth over his back and seat six for lunch.

After seeing a curvy Mae West on the



Ellene Kadden: too fat?

stage, Cecil Beaton wrote that "it made one feel that thinness really was unsatisfactory sexually. This fat, pink, creamy, fleshy creature looked so lewd and naturally, healthily, amorously lustful that in one scene one had to cross one's legs".

Not so much role models as jam roll models. That is not to say that fat people don't still suffer discrimination. Sniggers are common. But only last week a hospital in Nottinghamshire denied surgery to a 20-stone woman on the ground that she was too heavy for the operating table. The Department of Social Security, which can make funeral grants of up to £500, apparently refuses

to pay more for special coffins for fat people.

A new pressure group called the International Obesity Task Force is complaining that obese Britons are costing the NHS hundreds of millions of pounds. In America, research by Duke University found that a businessman will earn \$1,000 a year less for every one pound he is overweight.

The stigma is now so great that a recent MORI survey found that almost half of girls aged 11 and over are terrified of being fat. This is despite evidence that thin women give us the heebie-jeebies. A study by *The Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology* found that American women only had to look at a picture of Claudia Schiffer for three minutes to become overwhelmed by feelings of depression, stress, guilt and shame. And this wasn't because Schiffer was going out with that magician David Copperfield at the time. Richard Klein, author of the best-seller *Eat Fat*, has given millions of

people an excuse to stop sucking in their waists. Klein, a professor of French at New York's Cornell University, argues that dieting is actually bad for us. "For more than 40 years, the health/beauty/fitness industry has mobilised immense resources of wealth and creativity to persuade us of the virtues of being skinny". In that case, he suggests, we ought to be getting thin, not fatter. So "perhaps we are all supposed to be getting fatter, since that's what we're all doing anyway". It's a compelling argument. Especially if you're, say, the ever-inflating Marlon Brando.

"Loving beautiful fat has been the rule, not the exception, in human history," argues Klein. "and one day it will rule again." But there are limits. If, when a doctor places a thermometer in your armpit he ties string to one end so that he can retrieve it without sending in a search party led by Huskies, then you are already pretty plump. If the doctor can't actually find your armpit, start thinking about cutting out the cheesecake.

Hysteria and Gulf War syndrome

Elaine Showalter's questioning of conditions such as Gulf War syndrome and ME has proved so inflammatory that she faces death threats. Jason Cowley reports

Each morning another sack of hate mail arrives for Elaine Showalter, the distinguished Anglo-American academic whose provocative new book about Gulf War, chronic fatigue (ME) and other "hysterical syndromes" has led to almost daily calls for her murder. As well as having to contend with death threats, Showalter's life of scholarly routine has been disrupted in other ways, too. At book signings where she is continually heckled, she requires constant protection. On television shows, where she boldly dismisses Gulf War syndrome as a "psychogenic sickness", an itinerant band of veterans are often lying in wait, sometimes dressed in uniform. Vague conspiracy theories suggesting that her research is funded by shadowy arms corporations, all with a vested interest in exposing Gulf War syndrome as nothing more than a psychosomatic illness, refuse to go away. And inflammatory extracts from her book, *Hystories*, are circulating on the Internet, alongside attacks on her character.

Fanatics purporting to be from the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Immune Dysfunction Group have even created a series of Showalter web sites through which they traduce her academic reputation, denounce her as a "Fascist and Nazi" and call for her to be "demolished" or "wiped out". Most worryingly, a stalker of celebrity writers was spotted last week at a meeting attended by Showalter, 56, at Princeton University in New Jersey, where she has a chair in the English department.

A trenchant feminist and cultural critic, she has been researching madness and hysteria for more than two decades. As an academic, she claims to be used to "hostile questioning", but her most recent brush with Simon Nye, the author of *Men Be-*

having badly, about whom she wrote a disparaging critique (Showalter moonlights as television critic of the mass-market *People* magazine).

Reflecting on recent events, she says: "I'm scared and worried. The Internet is a really new factor in all this. When you have all this stuff circulating about you and have all these things being said about you and your book — that I'm a Nazi, that what I've written is garbage — well, it's really scary."

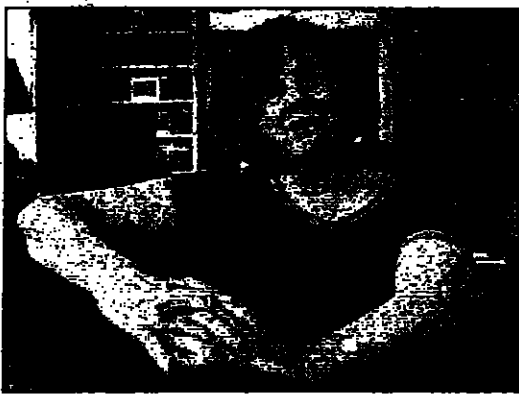
So what lies behind all the fuss? In *Hystories*, her new study of hysterical epidemics and modern culture, Showalter asserts that America has become the hot zone of psychogenic diseases, and that the country is in the grip of "psychological plagues". Chronic fatigue syndrome (ME or yuppiefit), Gulf War syndrome, recovered memory, multiple personality disorder, satanic ritual abuse, alien abduction: all are psychosomatic illnesses, manifestations of *fin-de-siècle* anxiety.

The histories of these syndromes are linked and overlapping. They all move towards suspicion, conspiracy theories, witch-hunts and mass panics. Word about them spreads fast. The afflicted feast on *The X-Files*, self-help books and pruriently confessional talk shows.

As the panic reaches epidemic proportions, she writes, "hysteria seeks out scapegoats and enemies — from unsympathetic doctors, abusive fathers, and working mothers to devil-worshipping sadists, curious extraterrestrials, and evil governments."

Showalter unearths fascinating statistics. With the ob-

vious exception of Gulf War syndrome, 90 per cent of hysterical syndrome patients are women. "I think," she says, "this has something to do with the multiple roles that women are struggling to fill, wrestling with frustrations and anxieties that they are unable to articulate. And we are not just talking about anonymous women here, but also women of great celebrity." She cites the case of the Empress of Japan who lost her voice after sustained press criticism. She did not speak for three months — a classic hysterical symptom. You



Elaine Showalter: protected at book signings

could say that Princess Diana's bulimia is a form of this, too. Diana clearly found herself in a situation where she was dealing with emotions she couldn't articulate, so they found their outlet in physical symptoms.

As a sceptical Freudian, Showalter feels the victims of syndromes are encouraged to blame external sources for psychic problems. Although she does not go so far as to accuse patients of lying, she suggests that "they learn about diseases from the media, unconsciously develop the symptoms, and then attract media attention in an endless cycle". She writes: "Culture forces people to deny the psychological and emotional sources of their symptoms, and to insist that they

must be biological and beyond their control for them to view themselves as legitimately ill and entitled to the privileges of the sick role."

Next week Showalter arrives in London, where she spends three months every summer researching medical history at the Wellcome Institute. She expects a rough reception: Dr Charles Shepherd, medical director of the British Myalgic Encephalomyelitis Association, has already accused her of crass irresponsibility. "I feel very angry about her," he says. "Patients have had a raw deal for 15 years. Research confirming that chronic fatigue syndrome is not in the mind has come through in the past two years and this sort of madness is ammunition for the sceptic."

"One person a month commits suicide because they are not getting the support they need, because they are told 'Go away, pull yourself together'." I suspect we will get people committing suicide as a result of this book. I'm not surprised she has had death threats.

Showalter is saddened by these remarks, dismissing them as outrageous and irresponsible. "I think it is an outrage that an educated person in a position of responsibility should seek to legitimise a violent reaction to my book. It is shocking to me that a British doctor could say such incendiary things; that people will commit suicide. We aren't talking ayatollahs here; we're talking British doctors. He should get real."

She insists that her book is balanced and moderate; that the ferocity of its reception has surprised her. This may be a little disingenuous: in the *Beyond Scapegoats* section, she

concedes: "Defining recovered memory, chronic fatigue and Gulf War syndrome as contemporary hysterias, and analysing them on a continuum with alien abduction stories... will infuriate thousands of people who believe they are suffering from unidentified organic disorders."

She is prepared, too, to take on British Gulf War veterans, many of whom are mired in compensation disputes with the Government and at least 600 (compared to 60,000 in the US) of whom claim to have Gulf War syndrome. Showalter acknowledges that their suffering is real.

She just refuses to accept that their ailments have a chemical cause. "The symptoms caused by war neurosis are just as painful and incapacitating as if they were caused by sarin pesticides or vaccines." In short, they are cultural phenomena.

As she prepares for her last round of speaking engagements before her sojourn in England — a country, she says, that is wiser, more balanced and ironic than the US — Showalter hopes that, once the dust settles, *Hystories* will open up a dialogue between the afflicted and their accusers. She remains confident that society has the knowledge to control "epidemic hysteria", though she feels it will take dedication and persistence to counter sensational reports, rumours and fear.

"I wrote the book to destigmatise hysterical illness. I am in complete sympathy with the people suffering from these syndromes. As someone who is outside the fray, I thought I was in a position to raise difficult questions. I'm not going to solve this problem, but I can at least bring it out into the open. My mantra is: 'Knowledge is the cure.'"

● *Hystories* is published by Picador at £16.99

Book review, page 39



Showalter acknowledges that the suffering of Gulf War veterans is real. She just refuses to accept that their ailments have a chemical cause

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The politics of private lunching

Sue Cameron says Whitehall will defend a minister's right to leak

A word in the ear of Tony Blair's lieutenants on the subject of lunch. They should not waste time calling up ministerial diaries on the Cabinet Office computer when they want to check whether any of their charges have gone "towel" — to lunch without leave.

The integrated computer diary showing exactly what all Cabinet ministers are meant to be doing at all times was introduced under Michael Heseltine when he was Deputy Prime Minister and it is called Cabenet. But it does not show lunches with journalists. "Oh, dear me, no," said one old Whitehall hand in shocked tones. "Lunch with a journalist isn't an official engagement, is it? So it couldn't go in the official diary."

How far this has been borne in upon Alistair Campbell, the new No 10 Press Secretary, or Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, is unclear. What is certain is that Downing Street is keeping tabs on ministerial lunches with the media.

Reports that ministers would have to obtain clearance for such lunches roused such a storm of ridicule that the system was softened almost immediately. Now media lunches by officials or ministers merely have to be logged.

All this symbolism is Labour's intent to run a more centrally controlled administration than any before it. Yet Tony Blair and his

coterie may find it harder than they think to impose their will on the government machine. For one thing, the sheer scale of Whitehall will make it impossible to keep track of ministers all the time. For another, the Blair insiders do not have departments of their own. In Civil Service terms, this is like being a general without an army. It makes it hard to plug into Whitehall's powerful private office network, where the young, high-flyers of the Civil Service barter policy positions and make inter-departmental deals on behalf of their bosses.

Aside from such practical difficulties, those who want to concentrate too much power at the centre will encounter opposition in principle from those guardians of British governance: the senior Civil Service. Whitehall may be delighted at the prospect of a return to firm government, but top officials will question the degree of central control. Discipline and co-ordination will be applauded. Attempts to usurp great departments of state will not.

As one Permanent Secretary pointed out, "our system rests on the doctrine of collective Cabinet responsibility. If the Prime Minister himself tells us to do something then we do it, but if anyone else at the centre tried to overrule my Department without a Cabinet decision, then I think I would have to advise my minister to say no. I would tell him: it was not just a matter of fighting the Department's corner. It would be his constitutional duty."

Rousing ministers to open revolt may not be necessary. Just as the Russians rely on

winter as their chief defence against invasion, so civil servants will rely on the size, complexity and idiosyncrasy of the government machine. Which brings me back to lunch.

Whitehall has always treated lunch in the strictest confidence. So much so that ministers have not one but three diaries. First there is the official diary, which is put on Cabenet and which is so innocuous it can be shown to almost anyone — even the Cabinet Office. Then there is the confidential diary, which may be vouchsafed to senior officials in a minister's own department. Finally there is the real diary, which is kept under lock and key, its contents known only to the minister himself and his private secretary.

The reason for the diary subterfuge is that ministers and officials know it is sometimes in their department's interest to have its case out in the open. The most obvious example is when a spending department is battling against the Treasury. These conflicts will be as much a feature of the new Labour administration as ever they were of past governments, if not more so.

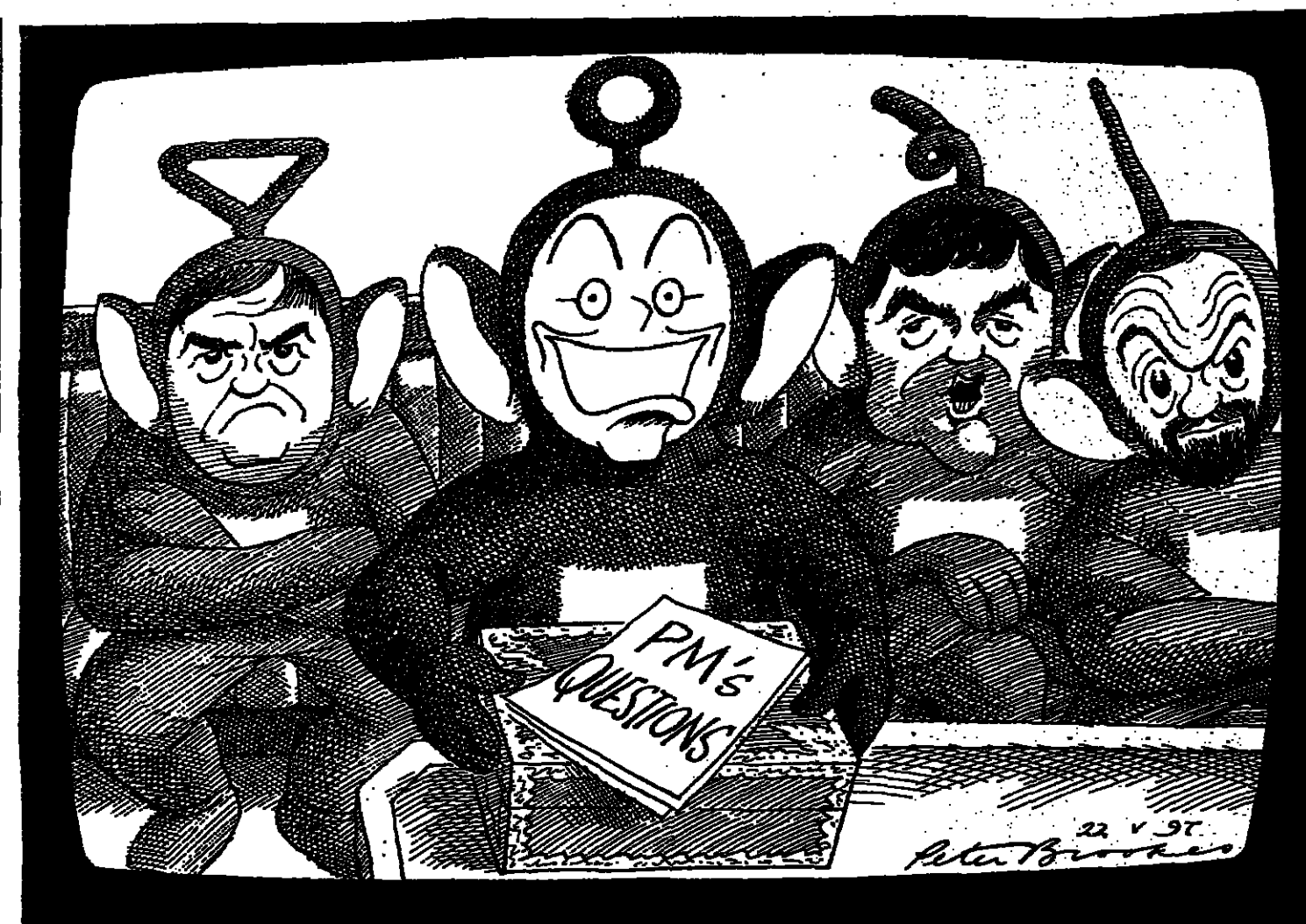
And it will be no use Messrs Mandelson and Campbell telling everyone to stay "on message". The point is they will all be conveying different messages. The best way for a department to put its message across without an unseemly public row is for a Cabinet minister to leak it. (As tele-

vision's Sir Humphrey Appleby used to observe, the ship of state always leaks from the top.) Traditionally, this leaking has been done over lunch, and Mr Blair's new lunch policy, however vigilant, may find this custom impossible to stop.

Some ministers will practise Whitehall-style economies with the truth, as happened when Michael Heseltine started trying to pry into colleagues' lunch arrangements. "I think I've put you down as a meeting on internal development," remarked one minister at the time to his journalist host, as they contemplated puddings at a smart London restaurant.

Nervous ministers may actually forego lunch to avoid logging it, but they will still leak. They will leak in the Commons, they will leak down the phone, they will leak through political advisers or other ministers, they will leak at conferences, they will leak through officials, they will leak not at lunch but at breakfast, tea and drinks-time (it is usual, said Sir Humphrey, to drink before leaking). Perhaps they have started already. Within days of Labour's victory there were reports that Britain might rejoin the European exchange rate mechanism as a prelude to accepting the single currency. The rumour was denied, but not before they had driven down the pound — to the Treasury's delight. A happy hour for Chancellor Gordon Brown and his officials? Or were they out to lunch?

The lunch police may find leaks impossible to stop



TELETUBBIES ROW: NEW-STYLE PROGRAMME "SLOW, BANAL, ILL-CONCEIVED..."

Is Euroscepticism dead?

Blair should beware: victory doesn't mean the public wants a single currency

I have been sitting on the crossbenches of the House of Lords for the debates on the Queen's Speech. They have been good debates, with peers — including many hereditary peers — making original and knowledgeable contributions. The Conservatives, though now sitting on the left hand of the throne, are still the largest party. Yet one cannot avoid feeling that the usual balance of parliamentary life has been destroyed. The Labour victory was so great a landslide that for the moment there can be no real opposition. Those of us who sit as crossbenchers have always known that we exercised no power: now it is as though everyone were as powerful as the crossbenchers, except for a small group on the Government front bench in the House of Commons.

The landslide has overwhelmed the usual checks and balances inside the Labour Party, as well as those between the parties. The three leaders who won the election were Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and Peter Mandelson. So long as they work together, they must dominate the Cabinet. Robin Cook can defend his own territory, but that is about all. Anything the triumvirate want, they can have. There is obviously a danger in this. Parliament exists to control the power of the executive: for the time being that check hardly survives. Parliament itself has lost much of its power.

Since the election, the Labour Government seems to have shifted policy on Europe, particularly on the single currency. Before May 1, the Labour Party was cautious about Europe, admitting that there might be economic problems with the euro, and expressing determination to resist the creation of a European superstate. That mood has changed, perhaps because their majority is so large. The most significant decisions affect the Bank of England. Gordon Brown has given the Bank operational control of interest rates, which was not promised in the Labour manifesto, and has taken away regulatory responsibility for the banking system, which was not mentioned even in the Queen's Speech. The implication is that the Government is preparing to give itself an option to enter the single currency in the first wave, on January 1, 1999. That is now only 19 months away. The rest of the Government's pro-European policy fits that assumption.

The Labour Party is committed to a referendum on the single currency, and a determination to enter in the first wave would run the risk of a referendum defeat. Yet the opportunity is tempting. If the Labour vote were whipped, as it almost certainly would be, and the Conservatives had a free vote, as they were promised by John Major, there might be at least 450 votes in favour of the single currency in the new House of Commons. That would include almost all the Liberal Democrats. The majority for entry would be 250, perhaps close to 300. The Labour and Liberal Democrat parties would then run a joint "yes" campaign: the shattered Conservatives would certainly advise people to vote "no".

The "no" would probably have the support of the majority of the press, but neither the press, the Conservatives, nor the business community would be unanimous. If a referendum could not be won in these circumstances, it could never be won at all.

Before the election, Tony Blair's intention may well have been to wait to see how the single currency developed, and to join it only in the second round, perhaps in 2002. He could have made the next election the point of public decision, and avoided the referendum risk. He will still have that option, but he must now be conscious of the power of his great majority. If he were to win a single currency referendum in 1998, he would have demonstrated again his influence with the electorate. No politician understands better than the Prime Minister the advantage of staging a fight you can win: that is what he did when he abolished the long-cherished Clause Four.

The Conservatives seem likely to choose a leader who is against entering the single currency, as are five of the six candidates. The risk of a referendum from the Labour Party's point of view does not, however, come from the Conservatives, who won less than a third of the vote on May 1, but from public opinion itself. There is a deep underlying Euroscepticism in Britain: few people want deeper integration with Europe; most people

want to stay in without joining the single currency; more people want to come out altogether than want to integrate further. A referendum on the single currency taken before the last election would almost certainly have been lost.

However, the Eurosceptics did not have a good election. Among Conservative candidates, Eurosceptics seemed to suffer very much the same swing as their more Europhile neighbours. That was not universally true: the Somerset seats, the Eurosceptic David Heathcoat-Amory held Wells, while Weston-super-Mare, Taunton and Somerset were being won by the Liberal Democrats.

Having resigned as a minister on the issue of Europe probably helped Heathcoat-Amory to hold his seat.

The nation's Eurosceptics did not have a major party to vote for. Under the influence of Kenneth Clarke, John Major had refused to rule out joining the single currency during the Parliament that has just begun. The Referendum Party and the UK Independence Party were not contenders for power. But the poor showing of Eurosceptics in the election does not necessarily mean that public opinion has changed.

On the doorstep, Conservative canvassers found that the European Union was an important issue. Voters had strong feelings, but they were not prepared to make it a single-issue election. If there was one single issue, it was the desire to get the Tory Government out, a desire quite widely held by Conservatives themselves. From Tony Blair's point of view, the danger of a referendum is that it would make Europe the single issue in future. No doubt many Labour voters would vote "yes" if their Government asked them to, but even among Labour voters there would be many who would not. A single currency referendum would give the Conservatives an opportunity to regroup, with a new leader, around a popular issue.

William Rees-Mogg

William Rees-Mogg is a Conservative MP and a leading Eurosceptic. He is the author of the book 'The European Union: A History'.

Euroscepticism is rather like Scottish nationalism. Both are based on people's desire to govern themselves. In Scotland, there are hardline nationalists who favour full independence, moderate nationalists who favour devolution, and unionists who want to keep the union unchanged. When it comes to Europe, there are hardline Eurosceptics who want to get out, moderate Eurosceptics who want to stay in but go no further, and Europhiles who want a fully integrated Europe. In the Scottish referendum, the idea of a separate parliament more or less united hardline and moderate nationalists. In a single currency referendum, opposition to the euro would unite hardline Eurosceptics with most moderate Eurosceptics. In theory, the balance of public opinion should be "yes" to a Scottish parliament but "no" to joining the European single currency.

Of course, this opinion may have changed, or the Government may be able to change it. The public is always impressed by success and decisive action. Labour won the election by a huge majority and has been pouring out decisions and actions ever since. The Tories led the Eurosceptic crusade, and after the May Day massacre the vanquished did not look good. Even the EU itself has become more friendly. European politicians have been pleased to see a more sympathetic British Government; they have been envious of the scale of the Labour victory. At least for the present, relations between Britain and the other main EU countries are warmer than they were, and one may be sure that nothing would be done to upset the British in a pre-referendum period.

Momentum is always very powerful in politics. Perhaps, if Mr Blair takes the risk, he can pull off one of those narrow referendum victories, like the tiny French majority in the Maastricht referendum. Yet there is a danger that this seemingly omnipotent Labour Government should not forget. The Conservatives turned against the idea of self-government for Scotland. Twenty years later they lost every Scottish seat. Labour might win a referendum victory on the euro next year, even against the grain of the British electorate, but the desire for self-government is a potent political force which will reassert itself in the end, as the Americans showed the British in 1776, and the Scots reminded the Tories in 1997.

Labour's rotten borough

Magnus Linklater on Glasgow's sleazy subculture

Behind the case of Mohammed Sarwar lies an even more serious affair: the corrupt state of the Labour Party in Glasgow. It is the corruption of a party that has been in power unchallenged for too long; the corruption not of money handed over in plastic bags, but of influence behind the scenes, fearlessly guarded. Glasgow has become a political midden, and though the party executive in Scotland has circled round it warily, it has never felt able to plunge the fork in and turn it over, perhaps for fear of what it would uncover. The Sarwar allegations offer it a chance, finally, to do just that.

Mr Sarwar himself may survive the charges against him. The allegation that he bribed an opponent for the sake of a few hundred votes is inherently improbable, but his coat, as the Scots say, is hanging "on a shoogly peg". At the very least his judgment looks flawed, and other claims about the methods used by some of his supporters in securing a narrow victory at the general election raise even more serious questions. From the outset of his career as a local councillor he has been dogged by rumours about vote-rigging, packed membership lists and dubious electoral registers. One member of the Labour's Scottish Executive who attended the meeting at which Mr Sarwar sought nomination in Govan said that the atmosphere was so hostile he worried it might end in fistfights. "I've never heard so many reputations smeared in one evening," he told me at the time.

That selection ended in a bitter dispute over the result. After scrutiny, the election was rerun and Mr Sarwar won the nomination. But a lingering suspicion remained, and his opponents were left thoroughly aggrieved. Almost from the moment of his triumph on election night, they began spreading dark stories about his campaign and the way the Asian vote was manipulated.

Given the seriousness of the charges, which date back to 1995, it seems extraordinary that the Scottish Labour Party has failed until now to mount a rigorous inquiry. It would be hard to imagine allegations of this nature going unchallenged anywhere else. But this is Glasgow, where sleeping dogs, or even stirring ones, tend to be left alone, and — perhaps understandably — the party was desperate to ensure that its first Muslim MP was given a clear run.

But there have been other cases where inaction seems to have been the watchword. Last February, Bob Gould, leader of the Labour group on Glasgow City Council, aroused his colleagues' fury by claiming that some councillors had tried to trade their support in return for trips to seaside resorts and conferences abroad. It was corruption of a fairly minor nature — some would say no worse than the petty graft handed out by the Chief Whip's office in the Commons — but the reaction was revealing. Within days it was being widely put about that Councillor Gould's political career was finished. Whistle-blowing, it seems, is an unenviable task.

As it happens, Mr Gould has survived so far, and if Labour's National Executive decides to institute the purge of suspect councillors it has promised, he may find his reputation positively enhanced. But it will take more than some minor weeding-out to re-establish Glasgow's reputation. The party has been tainted by the Monklams affair, where, in John Smith's former seat, charges of nepotism were brought with the added ingredient of sectarianism. And in nearby Paisley, where the Labour MP Irene Adams took on some local drug barons, there were extraordinary allegations that Labour councillors had openly presided over a violent subculture and allowed public funds to be siphoned off by drug-runners and money-launderers. In both cases the Labour hierarchy turned a blind eye until it was forced into action by public outcry.

It cannot afford to do so any longer. This is a moment of crisis for the City. It has in the past achieved great things, thanks to the vision and imagination of its leaders. In 1990 it won the title City of Culture against Europe-wide competition. It built a new international concert hall and conference centre, it launched a brilliant public relations campaign which helped to rejuvenate its economy. Now, however, it faces massive cutbacks following local government reorganisation in Scotland. Council tax has been put up, and initial cuts of £80 million in public services have been brought in. The last thing it needs at such a time is an avalanche of sleaze.

What Labour's inquiry needs to do, therefore, is more than just investigate the Sarwar affair. It has to look hard at the way its party functions at the grass-roots, its operation at local as well as national level, the way power is used and the openness — or lack of it — with which it conducts its business. This will be no easy task, for new Labour will be confronting the most entrenched and intransigent aspects of Old Labour in its last redoubt, the West of Scotland. It will be a bitter confrontation, but it is not one that can be avoided.

Golden touch

JOHN and Norma Major have moved into a Knightsbridge mansion where Ivana Trump used to live with her former husband, the late Lord Harris of Richmond. It was bought from Mazzuchelli in 1994 for £25 million by Lord Harris of Richmond, the Tory Party treasurer, and is being lent by him to the Majors while they look for a place of their own.

Harris has hopes to spare in London, as when the new Leader of the Opposition was faced with the prospect of commuting from his

constituency home in Cambridge-shire to the Commons every day, he offered the flat in Cadogan Square.

Mazzuchelli sold the place when he married Ivana and moved to a larger house across the square. It must have been a wrench. The residence is in two parts. On one side is what is described as the largest one-bedroomed flat in London. It has a huge ground-floor bedroom, a dining-room to seat 60, a bath with gold taps and room for

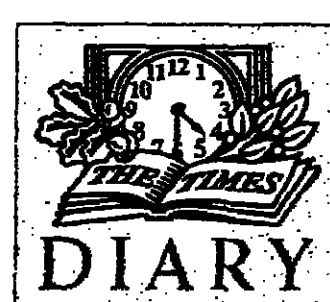
sleaze, a wine-room and Ivana's famed African Room, decorated with a thick leopard-skin carpet and exotic glassware. "There's a gallery above the hallway and gold leaf on everything," says a neighbour. "It is totally over the top."

Adjoining are three smaller bedrooms which can be entered only from outside. It is all very different from the late furniture and contemporary style of the Majors' home in Great Smoky, Huntingdon. But with two balconies, Major can at least indulge his newfound interest in gardening.

Self-appointed

GORDON BROWN'S overhaul of the City watchdog system surprised everybody, not least Howard Davies, the man whom he has appointed chairman of the newly strengthened Securities and Investments Board. Only last Friday, Davies, who is at present the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, was interviewing shortlisted candidates for the job he has now been given himself.

With the Treasury's permanent secretary, Terry Burns, who was also committed unaware of the changes, Davies listened to six candidates for the job of board chairman, which would have been vacated anyway by the incumbent Sir



Andrew Large in July. The former Labour MP Dr Oona McDermott was in the frame, along with Lord Ewer, former economic adviser to Neil Kinnock. Ewer did not deny that he was interviewed yesterday. "I can make no comment on that whatsoever."

Trust us

THE Prince of Wales has agreed to give his first television interview since ITV's Jonathan Dimbleby documentary, in which he all-but confessed to adultery. He is being filmed this week at Highgrove, giving a lengthy interview to Sir David Frost for transmission by the BBC in about two weeks' time. The prince's ill-advised remarks to Dimbleby three years ago, when he said he had tried and failed to "be faithful and honourable"

to his wife prompted the Princess of Wales to give her Panorama interview.

No risks are being taken this time. Sir David, a kindly interviewer, will concentrate on just one subject during the 60-minute programme: the Prince's Trust, which is celebrating its 21st anniversary. And the BBC is entrusting the project to its "documentaries" department, rather than "news and current affairs", which master-minded the deadly Panorama.

Has No 10 finally managed to muzzle its Minister of Sport, Tony Banks? Late yesterday, he called the BBC to say he could not appear on Radio 4's The News Quiz, which is recorded this evening for Saturday's broadcast. He explained that he "had been playing things a bit too close" so could not join Alan Coren and the other regulars.

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Absentee

FEARS for the safety of fashion designer Vivienne Westwood were raised on Tuesday when she failed to appear at a party to launch her new shop in Conduit Street, W1. The designer's 200 guests — including Anita Pallenberg, Oswald Bostong and Vogue Editor Alexandra Shulman — arrived at the shop at 7 o'clock, where they found 60 magnificents of Molt et Chandon, but no Vivienne. After frantic telephone calls from concerned PR girls, the 56-year-old designer and her husband, 30-year-old Andreas Kronthaler, eventually appeared at 8.30pm, by which time the fizz had run out and most of the guests had left. "Andreas and I were working late in my studio in Battersea," Westwood said by way of an excuse, "and then we had to go home to Clapham so that he could get changed."

P.H.S.



Will Ivana's decor appeal to John?





PIGS IN POKES

We need to know more before the devolution vote

Devolution, as Donald Dewar reminded the House of Commons yesterday, was John Smith's unfinished business. Unfortunately, the devolution package Mr Dewar's Government plans to implement is still only a half-finished creature. If devolution is to work then more work must be done before it is put to the people. The principle of a referendum on constitutional matters is democratically impeccable. Parliament should consult the people before transferring significant powers, which it holds in trust. The referendum scheme proposed is, however, demonstrably imperfect.

If the Conservative Cassandras are to be proved wrong, and devolution is to be a bulwark for the Union, rather than a battering ram against it, then it must be soundly based. Popular support for Home Rule needs to be properly ascertained, and the proposed assembly scheme so designed as not to exacerbate divisions.

Opinion polls record a clear, and settled, majority of Scots and Welsh who want their sense of autonomy given concrete expression in an assembly. The Government was elected with a ringing commitment to legislate for change. Assemblies could bring the administrative devolution that already exists in the Scottish and Welsh Offices under better democratic control. They could awaken new talent in the kingdom's neglected corners. But only if they are constructed to avoid obvious pitfalls.

There is a danger, given the current referendum proposals, that Government plans for devolution will not receive the scrutiny they deserve. Firstly, because the proposed referendum would take place before the Bill to create an assembly had passed into law, the voters would be invited to pass their verdict on a castle in the air rather than a parliament on the ground.

The Government plans to publish a White

Paper in the summer before referendums in the autumn but, however detailed the White Paper is, the Government cannot guarantee that it will be an accurate sketch of the new assemblies. If the Scots vote "yes" to a parliament in the referendum, but "no" to tax-varying powers, the nature of the beast will have changed dramatically. Moreover, if the Bill is amended as it goes through Parliament, and Parliament would be falling in its duty if it did not, then the Scots and Welsh will find themselves with a body for which they did not vote.

If, however, as Donald Dewar seemed to hint, a referendum "Yes" would be used to speed the passage of legislation through Parliament then that could lead to an even less satisfactory outcome. If those who try to reform the scheme are branded wreckers then, far from serving democracy, the referendum would have undermined it. Michael Howard was, rightly, alive to the dangers of plebiscitary authority being used to quell necessary dissent but his invocation of parallels with Continental dictatorships was quite unnecessary.

Given that the Government is determined to put the cart before the horse and hold the referendum before the legislation then steps can, still, be taken to improve matters. The White Paper should be as comprehensive, and honest, as possible. The West Lothian Question remains unanswered and, until it is, devolution risks fracturing the Union by encouraging the English to ask why Scots should have a say in England when they have none north of the border. A White Paper that spelled out a quid pro quo for a devolution, whether that was a reduction in Westminster representation or public spending, would address a core weakness of the current scheme. And it would alert Scots to the inevitability that devolution, even for them, cannot be a costless exercise.

CONGO REVISITED

A test for Kabila; and a test for the West too

The end of the Mobutu regime is as significant for Africa as the end of apartheid in South Africa. Mobutu Sese Seko's strategy of divide and misrule infected the whole region through the rebellions he stoked in neighbouring countries. If Laurent Kabila, who has renamed Zaire the Democratic Republic of Congo, handles what is bound to be a difficult transition with the fair that his troops have shown in their long march, this vast land could become the hub of a new and more stable political order in Central Africa.

Mr Kabila is not, however, cast in the same mould as Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni. Instead of belonging to the new generation of African modernisers, he is a veteran rebel. It is in the hope that President Kabila, for all his fondness for such throwbacks as political commissars and "popular re-education", will reject his Marxist past and prove a hard-headed but tolerant pragmatist that he has had such strong backing from Congo's neighbours. The character of his transitional government which began to emerge yesterday will be the first indication of his true colours.

To sustain the mood of goodwill and hope which greeted his arrival in Kinshasa late on Tuesday, the Kabila administration needs to be broad-based and economically competent. He would be well advised to fully exploit the talents of Etienne Tshikeshedi, the leader of the Union for Democracy and Social Progress which formed the main civilian opposition to the Mobutu regime. But bridge-building may have to go further: those of Mobutu's closest aides who have not fled may well merit investigation, possibly criminal charges; but refusal to work with anybody associated with the old regime is impractical.

The country has diamonds, gold and other valuable minerals in plenty, untapped oil reserves, and fertile land. But the State is not just bankrupt but poisoned by corruption. If it is to attract the foreign investment that will spur growth, and start to repair wrecked roads and railways, telephones, schools and medical services, Congo will need not just a liberal market regime but all the experienced managers it can muster.

Respect for authority has to be built from scratch; against Mobutu's incus state dishonesty has been the only defence for millions, the public sector has ceased to function, bribery is endemic. Changing this mentality will be extremely hard. The new Government must tread carefully to avoid a backlash in provinces which have survived the Mobutu years by keeping the kleptocrats of Kinshasa at arm's length and will now want more, not less autonomy.

That is why this Government must be genuinely transitional, with early multi-party elections under a federal constitution. African leaders are calling for this as firmly as any Western government. The West must however do more than preach good government; it must return to Congo's people the billions in aid, export earnings and private savings stolen by Mobutu and his intimates. The trawl must include front companies; a man who even put his \$2.3 million wine cellar in the name of an associate is bound to have covered his tracks. But to admit defeat would be to be party to organised crime — a crime which implicates every bank and business that has participated in Africa's most spectacular laundry operation and which reflects ill on the Western governments which for decades, knowingly, played Mobutu's dirty game.

BLAIR AT THE BOX

Less posturing and more reason make for a bland confection

Prime Minister's Question Time yesterday was in Paddy Ashdown's words, "a little less confrontational and a little more rational". Those MPs who barracked the Liberal Democrat leader might also have thought that it was a little more boring. But how much this had to do with the new format and how much it was a gentle running-in for the new Prime Minister is still hard to tell. The first PMQs of the first session of a new Parliament are bound to be relatively friendly. The last PMQs of the last session of an old Parliament will be acrimonious. The two cannot be directly compared.

The most useful reform is the abolition of the time-wasting reply: "I refer the Honourable Gentleman to the reply I gave some moments ago." In her 11 years at the dispatch box, Margaret Thatcher must cumulatively have spent at least a day parroting this phrase, which added nothing to the sum of political knowledge. Also welcome is the follow-up question given to Paddy Ashdown and to MPs who put down substantive questions in advance.

By the middle of Mr Major's administration, the then Prime Minister finally decided to drop insults about the last Labour Government, reasoning that most voters could not even remember it. Mr Blair will for some years be able to blame his inheritance for any failures under his administration. And backbenchers can rail about the state of the country without fear that this will reflect on the party in charge.

On yesterday's example, Tony Blair will

not descend from observation to plain insult. Mr Blair performed with assurance, barely glancing at a note. John Major looked enviously across, perhaps recalling the heavy briefing file through which he used to leaf as questioners took to their feet. But then the new Prime Minister has little to defend so far. His policies are scarcely more than intentions. When events start to trip him up, as they inevitably will, and as his ministers start to do more, he will find the Wednesday ordeal somewhat more demanding.

The new format offers a barely noticeable reduction in the Prime Minister's accountability. In 30 minutes, he worked his way through more questions than the two quarter-hour sessions held in the last Parliament. The advantage is that Mr Blair will now have an extra morning each week to spend on governing the country. But his aides should be watched carefully lest they are tempted to sneak out embarrassing announcements on Thursdays so that they have lost their sting by the next Wednesday.

Some things never change. This Prime Minister seems just as comfortable as his predecessor using words such as "tearaways and thugs". The Leader of the Opposition had a soundbite ready for the end of his intervention. But the impression the session left on the viewer was quite different. The old PMQs had all the excitement of a violent thriller and left an equally bad taste in the mouth. The new are more like an episode of *The Good Life*: enjoyable but slight, and as bland as they are sensible.

A wider electoral base to choose new Tory leader

From Captain John Lofis, Chairman of the Christchurch & East Dorset Conservative Association

Sir, I appeal to other Conservative association chairmen to resist the attempt by Mr Robin Hodgson, chairman of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations, to make us into mandated delegates in the leadership election (report, May 20).

Our association is affiliated to the national union and accepts its rules. What we do not accept is Mr Hodgson's attempt to usurp those rules by requiring me as chairman to become the mandated delegate of over 2,000 individual party members in this constituency. Even if it was practical for me to ascertain in the time available what each one thought about the candidates for the leadership election, few of them will have seen the individual manifestos of the six candidates let alone met them or seen them in action in Parliament.

Mr Hodgson's plan is a recipe for division and strife which will set one group of Conservatives against another and potentially some groups in the country against some Members of Parliament.

I am consulting members of our association about the leadership, as is our MP. But we look to Members of Parliament collectively to exercise their judgment and we will accept the outcome whatever it is and loyally support the new leader.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LOFIS,
Constituency Chairman,
Christchurch & East Dorset
Conservative Association,
188 Bargates, Christchurch, Dorset.
May 20.

From Mr Anthony Wigram

Sir, If the Conservative Party wants to involve the membership in the selection of its leader it should do so wholeheartedly on a one member, one vote basis. The suggestion by Brian Mawhinney of a 15 per cent share for consti-

tency chairmen (report, May 21) is little short of insulting.

However, since it is also essential for the leader to enjoy the support of the parliamentary party I would suggest a two-stage process. The first would be the endorsement of potential candidates by the parliamentary party, with only those getting the support of 20 per cent or more of his or her colleagues being entitled to be included in the second stage, which would be a postal ballot of the entire registered membership of the party. Let's not go on doing things by halves.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY WIGRAM,
(Chairman, Conservative Action for Electoral Reform, 1974-85),
Highfield House,
4 Woodfall Street, SW3.
May 21.

From Mr Ronald M. Godfrey

Sir, At this moment, although it might not be true at other phases of the parliamentary cycle, the Conservative Party has available a college of electors for their new leader that, by definition, must represent the whole of their membership. It is the list of their candidates at the general election, whether successful or not.

Surely some easy and immediate way could be found of taking the vote of that college, or at least of utilising it to confirm, or otherwise, the decision made by their smaller number of elected MPs.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD M. GODFREY,
17 East Hill, Oxford, Surrey.
May 18.

From Lord Damerore

Sir, Your MORI opinion poll (May 16) reveals that Kenneth Clarke is "the overwhelming favourite" of 27 per cent of Conservative voters to become leader of the revived Conservative Party. It shows also that 73 per cent do not favour his leadership; 52 per cent favouring another candidate, 14 per cent being undecided and the remain-

der regarding none of the candidates as worthy of support.

This, surely, is a powerful argument for resolving the divisions within the party countryside before rather than after the election of a new leader. The installation of a caretaker leader would enable cool and rational consideration of the many problems dividing the party, which are not solely about Europe, though that must be the major bone of contention.

To elect a leader now with the support of less than 30 per cent of the party's supporters would be a guarantee that new Labour would be re-elected in 2002.

Yours sincerely,
DERAMORE,
Heston House,
Aislaby, Pickering, Yorkshire.
May 16.

From Sir Frederic Bennett

Sir, In seeking to come to terms with their disastrous defeat at the polls on May 1, the Conservatives seem to have lost their appetite for everything except *hara-kiri*.

The contenders for the Tory crown in opposition — or should one call it at best a coronet — and their individual supporters and opponents at Westminster have resorted to a level of internecine abuse which exceeds any attacks made on any of them by their political foes during the election campaign.

Worse still the contenders for the leadership have admitted that the only policy issue on which they can unite is a futile opposition to the windfall tax (letter, May 17), which good or bad was a central plank in new Labour's manifesto so decisively endorsed by a clear majority of the electorate.

Yours etc,
FREDERIC BENNETT,
(Conservative MP, 1951-87),
Plas Cwmleceiog,
Aberangell,
Nr Machynlleth, Powys.
May 19.

Financial education

From the Principal and Vice-Chancellor of UMIST

Sir, With the announcement of a major shake-up in the regulation of the financial services industry (reports and leading article, May 21) it is important to remember that there are groups and individuals who are committed to a serious educational effort to raise consumer awareness about personal finance matters. Whatever the nature of the regulatory controls on the financial services industry, consumers who are knowledgeable about saving and investing, retirement planning, borrowing and insuring against risk are better protected than those who are not.

In a partnership approach to personal finance education, the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST) and 12 leading financial services institutions and the Building Societies Association are

supporting a totally independent consumer finance education centre based at, and under the control of, UMIST.

This centre, which is formally launched tomorrow, will produce independent, impartial and unbranded teaching resources, and provide the necessary academic support. This includes research to justify possible changes in the National Curriculum for schools and the development of more effective education for adults.

We do not regard this initiative as a soft option for the financial services industry, which retains the fundamental responsibility to develop straightforward, easily understood products and services which give good value and meet genuine consumer needs.

Yours etc,
R. F. BOUCHER,
Principal and Vice-Chancellor,
UMIST,
PO Box 88, Manchester M60 1QD.
May 21.

Quality of TV

From Mr Bernard Dunstan

Sir, My confidence in the BBC's present direction may not be increased by the Chief Executive of BBC Broadcast's use of English in his letter of May 12.

In only 26 lines he manages to include a bewildering variety of metaphor. Starting with a "house of many mansions", which has a "door that opens" and admits "fresh incoming talent on the countering wing", he goes on to bring in that popular image of the raft: "the raft of success ... achieved by close teamwork". The raft does not seem too seaworthy, for the gap between ITV and the BBC has been "stabilised" and "narrowed"; but "awards have flooded in".

Is he retaining a seafaring image in the next line, where, alarmingly, rivals "raid our talent locker"? However, it is nice to know that the BBC is, in spite of this, "being refreshed at every level".

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD DUNSTAN,
10 High Park Road,
Kew, Richmond, Surrey.
May 14.

Ethics and realpolitik

From Mr Randal Boyle

Sir, At last we have a Foreign Secretary who states in bold and uncompromising terms both that this Government will adopt a much harsher line towards countries which do not respect human rights and that our foreign policy must support the demands of other people for the democratic rights on which we insist ourselves (report, May 13; letters, May 19).

This should be good news for millions of people in Sudan, where the illegal fundamentalist regime of General Omar al-Bashir has been oppressing the Nuba and the Southern Sudanese since 1989, and where civil war has been endemic for decades.

Many of us who have been trying to persuade the Foreign Office for years to do more to bring pressure on the Sudanese Government will rejoice that at last we have a Government which firmly intends to take effective action to achieve peace and combat poverty through the United Nations.

Yours faithfully,
RANDAL BOYLE,
(District Commissioner,
Southern Sudan, 1948-53),
906 Beatty House,
Dolphin Square, SW1.
May 13.

Blinded by science

From the Reverend Brian Taylor, FSA

Sir, Your report on the sale of the Roll-right Stones (May 13) mentions the tradition that those of them within the circle cannot be counted "because you never can tell which one you started with".

In earlier years it was reckoned that the confusion was caused by local fairies. On July 24, 1946, the day after finishing our higher school certificate papers, a friend and I went to see the stones. I resisted the magic by counting them first clockwise and then anticlockwise. The result each time was the same — 73 stones.

Yours truly,
BRIAN TAYLOR,
253 Worpleston Road,
Guildford, Surrey.
May 13.

Sense of smell

From Mr Kevin Gibbin and Mr Nick Jones

Sir, Contrary to the impression given in your Medical Briefing, "Currie's taste may suffer after nose job" (May 12), loss of sense of smell is common with many forms of nasal disease and is often made better rather than worse by nasal surgery. It frequently reflects a disorder in the lining of the nose, and commonly responds to appropriate medical treatment; but surgery can also help, particularly where nasal polyps are present.

We anticipate no adverse effect on Mrs Edwina Currie's ability to appreciate and taste fine food and wine.

Yours faithfully,
KEVIN GIBBIN,
NICK JONES
(Consultants),
Department of Otorhinolaryngology
and Head and Neck Surgery,
Queen's Medical Centre,
University Hospital, Nottingham.

Reminiscences on Laurie Lee's life

From Mr James Lancaster

Sir, Laurie Lee's tale of schoolgirls visiting the village of Slad to seek him out (obituary, May 15) reminded me of when my elder daughter was reading *Cider with Rosie* for O level.

She and her younger sister with two other friends simply walked into his garden unannounced through an unlocked gate, to find the exalted author and his wife with a small table set out for afternoon tea.

After a few minutes, I was called in to take a photograph of my daughter standing proudly beside Laurie Lee, against the background of the same wall and rising landscape beyond that appeared in the photograph accompanying your obituary. He also went in the house for his camera, saying how he liked to keep a record of events.

When my daughter wrote a letter to thank him for his kindness and consideration, he replied: "I usually keep my gate locked on Sunday afternoons, but I'm glad I didn't on this occasion as it was a pleasure meeting such an attractive and intelligent young lady, as well as your family and friends."

It was a day of late summer to be ever remembered.

I am, yours faithfully,

JAMES LANCASTER,

Franciscus, 20 Russell Square,

Chorley, Lancashire.

May 15.

From Mr Christopher J. McManus

Sir, Your obituary of Laurie Lee told the bitter-sweet tale of Laurie going unrecognised in his own village of Slad — "Laurie us, could you tell us where Laurie Lee is buried?"

There was however one occasion on which he was recognised.

As Laurie told us himself at the Chelsea Arts Club one evening: "As I was walking down to the village pub I was approached by a little girl of about 9 or 10 who asked me if I were Laurie Lee. I said that I was, whereupon she said: 'Were it you what wrote that poem teacher made us learn by heart?' I said with modest pride: 'Yes, I expect so.' The girl, taking careful and deliberate aim, then kicked me furiously on both shins before running off as fast as her little legs could carry her."

Yours sincerely,
CHRISTOPHER J. MCMANUS,
Chelsea Arts Club,
143 Old Church Street, SW3.
May 15.

From Mr J. J. Rissen

Sir, Your excellent obituary of Laurie Lee quotes him on the birth of his daughter as writing of "a late fall into my life, laying purple and demented like a little bruised plum". What he actually wrote, in *The First Born* (Hogarth Press, 1964), was "a late fall in my life, and lay purple and dented like a little bruised plum".

Lee would not have been amused by your misprint. And the baby's name, according to the book's dedication, was Jesse, not Jessy.

Yours sincerely,
J. J. RISSEN,
25 Webbers,
Bishops Lydeard, Taunton, Somerset.
May 15.

From Mr Anthony Franklin

Sir, About twenty five years ago the late Laurie Lee was amongst distinguished guests at the Stock Exchange annual summer dinner. As a member of the council at that time I escorted him in to dinner, and found him a most convivial guest. However, during the speeches I noticed the chairman was directing a piercing glance of anxiety in my direction, and I then realised that Mr Lee was rising — a little unsteadily perhaps — to his feet beside me.

In the ensuing silence he recited, to the best of my recollection, the following lines:

I have no stocks or shares,
no stocks or shares at all;
But I've a David Hockney,
hanging on my wall.

He sat down to a round of applause and proceedings returned to normal.

Yours etc,
ANTHONY FRANKLIN,
Hill House, 8 Breodons Hill,
Fangbourne, Berkshire.
May 18.

Hogging the road

From Sir Nicholas Barrington

Sir, As an extension of the "man in the middle" concept (letters, May 6, 7, 8, 12), one of the most experienced ambassadors under whom I served, Sir John Pilcher, used to say, with some justification: "One's predecessors have no taste; one's successors have no judgment."

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS BARRINGTON,
2 Banhams Close, Cambridge.

Technical assistance

From Mr John Grant

Sir, Isn't using an electronic gadget to help finish a crossword (letter, May 17) rather like going out jogging for exercise and coming back by taxi?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN GRANT,
Pendle, 17 Stone Road,
Bromley, Kent.
May 17.

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR CAMPBELL STEWART

Professor Campbell Stewart, former Vice-Chancellor of Keele University, died on April 23 aged 81. He was born on December 17, 1915.

I was both tragic and fitting that Campbell Stewart should have died on a visit to the Keele campus where he had spent almost thirty years, first as Professor of Education at the infant University College of North Staffordshire, and then from 1967 as the second Vice-Chancellor of the University of Keele. As a scholar, he wrote widely and with distinction on the "progressive" movement in education. As a university administrator, building on the initiative of Keele's founder Lord Lindsay, he played a vital and imaginative role in establishing an innovative new institution of higher education.

William Alexander Campbell Stewart was born in Glasgow and brought up a London Scot, attending Cole's Grammar School and then going to University College as an exhibitioner, in 1934. University College London honoured him with a Fellowship in 1975.

He came to a professorship at Keele at the age of 34, having already had considerable educational experience, first as English master and housemaster at Friends' School in Saffron Walden, and then at the progressive Abbotsholme School in Derbyshire, on whose governing body he served between 1960 and 1980. After an assistant lectureship in education at the (then) University College of Nottingham, and a lectureship at the University College of Wales in Cardiff, he was among the first group of professors to be appointed to the North Staffordshire College by Lord Lindsay in 1950.

There he was responsible for setting up the course for the Concurrent Certificate in Education, whereby a Keele undergraduate could qualify for a Bachelor's degree and a teaching certificate on completion of the Keele four-year course. This put Keele graduates on equal terms with their contemporaries from other universities who had taken a three-year degree course followed by a postgraduate year for the teaching certificate. In the early years this departure from standard academic practice elsewhere attracted a high proportion of intending teachers to Keele.

After the death of the second principal, Sir George Barnes, in 1960,



Campbell Stewart was acting principal of the University College. He was responsible for hosting the ceremonies associated with the tenth anniversary, which included a visit from the Queen Mother, accompanying Princess Margaret, who was president of the college, in May 1961. His obvious qualities as a leader during those months made such an impression that on the retirement in 1967 of Harold Taylor (Barnes's eventual successor as Principal of the University College and subsequently the first Vice-Chancellor of the new university), Stewart's colleagues were happy to entrust their future to one of their own.

It was a fortunate choice. Keele suffered the common fate of universities in the turbulent years of the student troubles from 1969 to 1971 — on one occasion a group of students tried to levitate the Vice-Chancellor's residence by humming — but Stewart's calm and

firm hand ensured that not a single hour of teaching or examining was lost.

Brought up as a Quaker, Stewart believed in letting his colleagues have their say. Senate meetings were deliberative assemblies and by no means formal approvals of executive proposals. If this resulted in a break for dinner in a Senate meeting that had started at 2.15pm, then so be it.

He did a great deal to broaden and foster Keele's relations with local and national friends and potential benefactors. He knew the local pottery manufacturers as friends and valued and maintained his membership of Federation House, popularly known as the Potters' Club, until his death. He also developed warm friendships with many local members of the medical profession, and this informed his quest for a medical school for Keele. One of his abiding legacies is a Postgraduate School of Medicine which has en-

hanced the quality of medical provision in North Staffordshire and brought some distinguished practitioners to the area. He highly valued his Deputy Lieutenantcy of the County of Stafford.

Nationally he was a respected member of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals and was the secretary of a group within the committee, which endeavoured to modernise its procedures.

In earlier years he had been a fine rugby player, but an attack of polio in 1954 left him with a permanently withered arm. His zeal for the game was, however, undiminished and his office closed early on the afternoon of the televised Varsity match. He was a champion of modern art, music and theatre, attracting the composer Peter Dickinson to Keele as its first Professor of Music. His Gulbenkian Fellows in Fine Art left a legacy of modern works to the Keele campus.

Stewart wrote extensively on progressive education. His first book *The Quakers and Education* (1953) was a reworking of his 1947 PhD thesis, and this was followed by a two-volume study of progressive education, *The Educational Innovators*. He contributed to an understanding of educational theory in his *Introduction to the Sociology of Education* which he wrote with Karl Mannheim, and his final work, which he published in 1989 — after retirement as Professorial Fellow at the University of Sussex — was *Higher Education in Postwar Britain*.

He was a devoted attendee at services in the Keele chapel, which was one of the cornerstones of Lindsay's concept, and a knowledgeable participant in interviews for chaplains to the university. Until his death he was a trustee of the Higher Education Foundation which grew out of the SCM University Teachers' Group, and he reviewed regularly for its journal, *Reflections*. He had visiting professorships at the University of California in Los Angeles and at McGill University in Montreal.

Stewart was careful, courteous and kind. To his great credit, his patience remained to the end undiminished, his optimism undimmed and his faith in Keele and what Lindsay stood for, unshaken. Lindsay's old gown hung in his office, but his was not a slavish adherence to everything that Lindsay had begun.

In 1947 Campbell Stewart married Ella Burnett, of Edinburgh, who survives him with their son and daughter.

BRIGADIER J. F. M. MELLOR

Brigadier J. F. M. Mellor, CBE, Director of Technical Training and Inspector of Boys' Training for the Army, 1966-69, died on April 24 aged 84. He was born on June 6, 1912.



IN THE aftermath of the Dunkirk evacuation, in which he took part, Derrick Mellor (the disliked Frederick as being "too German") was involved in the formation of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME), a corps which was to play such an important role in repairing transport and fighting vehicles in the Western Desert and afterwards. Before the war he had been deeply involved in the development of military technical training, especially in wireless and, later, radar.

James Frederick McLean Mellor was himself the son of an Army officer. He was educated at Radley and the Institute of Mechanical and Electrical Engineers at Faraday House. In 1936 he joined the Army as an ordnance mechanical engineer. Many units were changing over from relying on horses at that time and, as an engineer officer attached to the 12th Lancers, he helped the regiment to convert to armoured cars.

After the outbreak of war in 1939 he went to France on the headquarters staff of Lord Gort, commander of the British Expeditionary Force. Following the retreat of the BEF to Dunkirk he was evacuated on June 1, 1940, and brought back to Dover on an ex-Isle of Man ferry.

From 1941 he was involved in the formation of REME, which became one of the most important logistic corps in the British Army. This was certainly the case when the wear-and-tear on tanks, armoured cars and trucks became so critical during the fighting in North Africa. The task of keeping all vehicles in fighting trim was handed over to the new corps, which put a premium on REME training. In the run-up to D-Day Mellor was made senior instructor of the Armoured Fighting Wing of the REME training centre at Arborfield, Berkshire.

But he did not take part in

the Normandy landings themselves. On D-Day he was on his way to the Far East, to join Field Marshal Slim's 14th Army in Burma as deputy to the senior electrical and mechanical engineer officer there. For his work in maintaining the 14th Army's vehicles in working order in the pursuit of the Japanese, he was mentioned in dispatches and appointed OBE in 1945.

In 1947 Mellor went to the War Office as GSOL, an appointment in which he was dealing with weapons policy. With the threat from the Soviet Union replacing the one just banished from Germany and Japan, Britain and America were jointly addressing the problem of rearming Germany. Mellor would have liked to see much greater standardisation of weapons, but this was not easy even with the British Forces. Each of the three individual services clung, for example, to its own preferred choice of pistol — the Army liked its .38, the RAF wanted something much lighter while the Navy loved the .45, whose heavy butt could be used as a club in hand-to-hand fighting.

Among his later postwar appointments were those of senior REME officer at British 1st Corps in Germany, and of Brigadier Administration and

Quartermaster for Northern Command at York.

In his final appointment at the Ministry of Defence he chaired a committee on technical training whose members visited the Armed Forces of other countries to compare methods of cost containment. Their final report so impressed the Defence Secretary of the day, Denis Healey, that he asked that Mellor, who had reached the retirement age for a brigadier, should stay on to put it into effect. The post of Director of Technical Training was created for him and he was advanced to CBE in 1964.

In retirement Mellor was Norfolk County Commandant of the Army Cadet Force, 1969-72. He particularly enjoyed leading the cadet camps on Dartmoor or the North Yorkshire Moors, the more so as the 400-odd cadets who took part in them would be joined on these occasions by up to 50 boys from an Approved School, the Red House School, Buxton, Norfolk. These youths, none of whom had made the most promising of starts in life, benefited greatly, often finding resources of strength, compassion and kindness within themselves from the experience of pulling together.

Mellor's wife Margaret died in 1987. He is survived by their son and daughter.

JAMES FOX

James Fox, FBI agent, died of septicaemia on May 16 aged 59. He was born on December 23, 1937.

JAMES FOX'S 31-year career as an FBI agent coincided with some of the most dramatic cases in the agency's history, including the prosecution of Mafia boss John Gotti and the investigation into the World Trade Centre bombing.

Fox had established a considerable reputation in the field of counter-espionage in Chicago and San Francisco by the time he was appointed to run the FBI office in New York. The bombing of the World Trade Centre made him a household name. Raymond Kelly, the former New York City Police Commissioner who worked with Fox on the case, remembered



his soothing avuncular presence. "There was a lot of panic and unease in the United States — it was the first time that we had really experienced terrorism — and he was a very calming influence."

The slippery Mafia mobster John Gotti — "the Teflon don" — was found guilty of murder and racketeering after Fox's agents secretly recorded him at his headquarters in Little Italy and then persuaded his

chief lieutenant Salvatore "The Bull" Gravano to testify. "The Teflon is gone. The don is covered in Velcro, and all the charges stick," Fox said as Gotti was sentenced to life imprisonment. He was a master of the soundbite. "Another day, another don," he remarked laconically after the 1993 arrest of another leading Mafia figure.

James Monroe Fox was born in Chicago, the son of a bus driver. He liked to tell people that his father had chosen to name him after Jimmy Fox, the baseball star of the 1930s and 1940s.

Fox was educated at Augustana College and the University of Illinois at Urbana, where he studied law. He joined the FBI in 1963 and became a fluent speaker of Mandarin in order to track down spies in Chicago's China

Town. In 1975, he moved to FBI headquarters in Washington and worked in the Soviet and anti-terrorist sections. In 1984 he oversaw security operations at the Los Angeles Olympic games and in 1987 he was appointed Special Agent in charge of the FBI's New York office.

He ran the office for six years and was widely admired for his relaxed style. He always kept a plaque on his wall which read: "Find a job you love, and you'll never have to work a day in your life." He also proved to be an excellent communicator with the outside world and a popular and accessible bridge between the FBI and the public. As a former colleague once said: "He was good for the image of law enforcement. He reassured the public that the criminal justice system really can work." In 1993, Fox led the investigations that led to the conviction of New York State Chief Justice Sol Wachtler for stalking and threatening his former mistress.

Fox's willingness to make himself available to the media led to his suspension "for inappropriate comments about a pending prosecution" in December 1993, just weeks before his scheduled retirement. He had given a television interview in which he spoke about the blowing up of the World Trade Center, even though a judge in the trial of the 15 men charged with the bombing had ordered officials to maintain silence.

After his retirement in 1994, Fox became an executive vice-president for the Mutual of America Life Insurance Company.

He is survived by his wife Elaine and two daughters.

LADY RUSSELL

Lady Russell, painter and widow of the Conservative MP Sir Ronald Russell, died on May 14 aged 91. She was born on April 26, 1906.



A MEMBER of the Royal Institute of Oil Painters, Ena Russell painted bright impressionistic pictures of rural and urban landscapes — often from unusual viewpoints — as well as producing studies of flowers and still life assemblages.

Often she would retire for weeks on end to her studio in Provence, where she lived on boiled eggs and fruit cake, giving all her attention to her canvases. Her work was exhibited at the Royal Academy, the Paris Salon, the Royal Society of British Artists and the Royal Portrait Society. She also wrote and illustrated travel articles.

Ena Glendinning Forrester (as she was before her marriage) was well known for her artistic talents from her father, who was an architect. At Acton Reynald, a girls' boarding school in Shropshire, she developed her skill. It was soon to come in useful.

Although her father had won a competition to redesign Middlesbrough after the First World War, the recession prevented the redevelopment from ever taking place. Less and less building work was available to architects and the Forrester family was forced, eventually, to move from their genteel town residence into a boarding house — an experience which taught Ena frugal habits and gave

her a lifelong fear of debt and perhaps a slight envy of riches. (She once disconcerted one of her St John's Wood neighbours by accosting her in the street and declaring accusingly: "I hear you are a very rich woman.")

As a girl, required to contribute to the family finances, she started work, under the pseudonym of Ena Glen, writing and illustrating the fashion pages of the *North Eastern Daily Gazette*. It was while she was in the newspaper business that she met and married Ronald Russell, who was working for Reuters.

Ronald Russell stood for Parliament as a Conservative candidate in 1935 and 1945

and, in 1950, won the constituency of Wembley South. He was to hold this seat for 24 years, and was knighted in 1964. His wife meanwhile devoted herself more earnestly to her painting. Domestic chores were merely a tedious distraction to her, and best swept aside.

In 1968 she organised a "Wives of Westminster" exhibition in aid of the Artists' General Benevolent Institution. This continued to be her favourite charity.

She continued to paint until old age, despite failing eyesight.

Her husband predeceased her in 1974. She is survived by her son and daughter.

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Roy Castle died from lung cancer. Tel: 01753 555555.

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People of goodwill around the world will be linking in meditation and prayer using this invocation.

THE GREAT INVOCATION

From the point of Light within the Mind of God. Let light stream forth into the minds of men.

From the point of Love within the Heart of God. Let love stream forth into the hearts of men.

From the centre where the Will of God is known. Let purpose guide the little wills of men.

From the centre where we call the race of men. Let the flame of Love and Light work out. And may it seal the door where evil dwells.

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NEWS

Backbench poll is blow for Hague

Conservative MPs apparently rebuffed the party machine by choosing as their backbench leader a prominent rightwinger who is against giving activists a vote in next month's leadership election.

Sir Archibald Hamilton was elected as the chairman of the 1922 Committee, whose executive will today decide the timing and format of the leadership contest. Pages 1, 2

'DAs' will have to explain decisions

The powers of 42 American-style district attorneys who will be responsible for prosecutions in their areas were outlined as part of the Government's radical revision of the prosecution service. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said that the Crown Prosecution Service will be reorganised so that a chief crown prosecutor is responsible for each police area. Page 1

Crash banned

A film which explores the supposed sexual allure of mutilated car crash victims was banned by Westminster Council. David Cronenberg's *Crash*, inspired by J.G. Ballard's 1970s novel, will not be screened in London's West End. Page 1

Mines destroyed

All anti-personnel landmines held by the British Army are to be destroyed by 2005 and their use until then has been suspended, the Government said. Page 2

Aid for deaf

A deaf woman yesterday won the right to claim a special benefit to help her enjoy nights out with friends or at the theatre after a landmark House of Lords ruling. Page 3

Fatigue syndrome

Half the children unable to attend school for long periods are victims of chronic fatigue syndrome, researchers say. Page 5

Ethnic mix

A growing trend towards mixed relationships shows how ethnic minorities are integrating into British life, a report said. Page 6

Aids confrontation

Janette Pink, her body ravaged by Aids and with only a brief time to live, will today confront her former lover in court in Cyprus and accuse him of deliberately infecting her. Page 7

Chimps get up to monkey business

Female chimpanzees conduct illicit affairs unknown to their male companions, and unobserved even by scientists who have spent years watching their every move. The discovery, using DNA fingerprinting techniques to establish paternity in a community of chimpanzees in the Ivory Coast, contradicts 30 years of careful observation. Page 9

Bird reserve doomed

A shooting and wildlife enthusiast who spent four years creating a wooded bird reserve on marshland in the Norfolk Broads has been told he must return the site to its former state. Page 10

Girls killed by fire

Three schoolgirls who died in a road accident survived the crash but were killed when their car burst into flames as they tried to scramble clear. Page 13

Land law anger

Israel is to appeal to the UN Committee on Human Rights against the decision by the Palestinian Authority to impose the death penalty on any Arab who sells land to Jews. Page 14

Chirac warning

President Chirac has made his most emphatic intervention in the election saying a Socialist victory would undermine 40 years of European construction. Page 16

Taliban triumph

Towns in at least three of the six provinces controlled by the military alliance in northern Afghanistan have switched allegiance to the Taliban militia. Page 17

Envoy complains

Tokyo's Ambassador to Peru, who was sacked last week after the Lima hostage crisis, said that he had survived the four-month ordeal only to be treated like a war criminal. Page 18



Sheraldine Mohamed, a worker at a Johannesburg flag factory, inspects the new flag of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Page 19

BUSINESS

Unions: Leaders have opened wide-ranging talks with senior ministers — including this week holding talks in 10 Downing Street with the Prime Minister. Page 27

Eurofighter: Tony Blair is to ask Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, for a firm commitment to the Eurofighter at their first meeting tomorrow. Page 27

Pilkington: The troubled glassmaker has parted company with its chief executive only weeks after a profit warning sent the shares plunging. Page 27

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 34.5 points to close at 4642.0. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 99.0 to 99.1 after a rise from \$1.6453 to \$1.6470 and from DM2.7896 to DM2.7917. Page 30

SPORT

Cricket: Going into the Texaco one-day series against Australia, England are approaching an immensely challenging summer with a refreshing air of purpose and unity. Page 52

Football: Kenny Swain, of Grimsby Town, and Chris Nicholl, of Walsall, left their jobs as managers: Garry Nelson retired as player-coach of Torquay United. Page 46

Rugby union: Jason Leonard will captain the British Isles in the opening game of their South African tour in the absence of Martin Johnson. Page 50

Athletics: Linford Christie is to be named as the British men's team captain for the European Cup next month. It will be, he says, his last British appearance. Page 49

ARTS

Cartoon capers: New in the cinema this week, *Beavis and Butt-head Do America* is a brash, crude and funny cartoon satire, while *Low and the Catastrophes* is a delightful campus comedy from Australia. Page 36

Going Dutch: The New York Met's *Flying Dutchman* is among the new classical CDs: the video selection includes Geena Davis in a violent thriller. Page 36

Calling Roman: *Titus Andronicus* is given a visually striking production at the Lyric, Hammersmith. The only drawback is that it is in Romanian. Page 37

Happy talk: Having ditched the "shock jocks", Talk Radio has turned into a decent station, says Peter Barnard. Page 37

FEATURES

Campaign: A campaign against the problems caused by epilepsy is about to be launched. Dr Stuttaford looks at a condition society finds difficult to accept. Page 20

Big issue: The expulsion from Harrods of a size 20 American woman should not depress people, says Joe Joseph. Page 21

Death threats: Elaine Showalter's questioning of Gulf War syndrome and ME is so inflammatory that she faces death threats. Pages 21, 39

Flight trouble: The planes that never turned up. Page 41

Potter about: Japanese fans of Beatrix Potter have helped to provide a picturesque route leading to her home. Page 41

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

POP: David Sinclair finds that Gary Barlow's fine debut solo album fails to dispel the George Michael comparisons.

EDUCATION: Margaret Hodge writes about Labour's nursery plans.

Tasty reading: Alastair Little gives the River Café Cook Book II the recipe test. Pages 38, 39

THE PAPERS: The Baltic nations' pressure groups in the US feel cheated over Nato expansion. But their exclusion meant that Moscow was able to accept the incorporation of Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary. Change would be seen as provocation — *La Vanguardia, Barcelona*.

LOTTERY NUMBERS: 5, 8, 21, 38, 39, 49. Bonus: 34

TV LISTINGS

Preview: A Bafta winner launches a new series of short films by emerging talent. *Short and Curly* (Channel 4, 9.45pm). Review: Joe Joseph on the hazards of brightening up the bathroom. Pages 50, 51

OPINION

Pigs in pokes: If evolution is to work then more work must be done before it is put to the people. The principle of a referendum is democratically impeccable. The referendum scheme proposed is, however, demonstrably imperfect. Page 23

Congo revisited

The end of the Mobutu regime is as significant for Africa as the end of apartheid in South Africa. Page 23

Blair at the box

The old PMOs had all the excitement of a violent thriller and left an equally bad taste in the mouth. The new are more like an episode of *The Good Life*: enjoyable but slight, and as bland as they are sensible. Page 23

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Labour might win a referendum victory on the euro next year, even against the grain of the British electorate; but the desire for self-government is a potent political force which will reassert itself in the end, as the Americans showed in 1776, and the Scots reminded the Tories in 1977. Page 22

JOHN BRYANT

If you need a break from this week's sports stories, perhaps you should look at Finland. There they are devoting the whole year to celebrating a sporting legend who was born a century ago and whose achievements provide a glimpse of the country's golden era. Page 50

PETER RIDDELL

Paddy Ashdown won an important symbolic victory. He intervened twice in the new style Prime Minister's questions, compared with his previous single question. Page 11

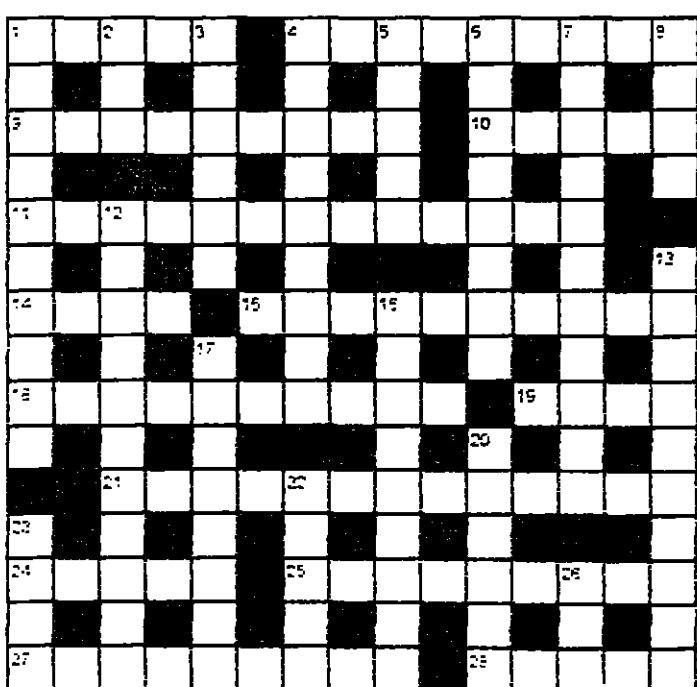
OBITUARIES

Professor Campbell Stewart, former Vice-Chancellor of Keele University; Brigadier J.F.M. Mellor, Director of Technical Training; James Fox, FBI agent. Page 25

LETTERS

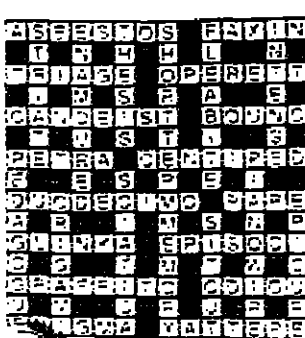
Tory leadership electoral base: Laurie Lee; Gulf War illness; financial education. Page 23

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,486



- ACROSS
- Army range captured (5).
 - Evergreen artist abbreviated capital (10).
 - Polish daily can be abusive (5).
 - Leading characters in a turning purple (5).
 - Threshold provided that is protecting old King's post, perhaps (5).
 - One struggled into a country (4).
 - Prostitute exhausted (11).
 - Pub may move to his advantage (14).
 - Wrinkle in the (4).
 - Marmite helpers of queen, perhaps (10) (the country) (5, 6).
 - Boots from sailors' island (5).
 - Left new order for thin, cool current (9).
- DOWN
- Whereby pilot checks river running here (4, 6).
 - Cattle with no English blood (5).
 - It protects consumer when the chips are down (4).
 - Road vehicle for overseas use (9).
 - Published River Dee, say (5).
 - Poetry lover's work that is worth appeal at first (8).
 - Showering down, learn to land in formation (11).
 - Part of foot-bridge (4).
 - Senior officer orders rubber alarm (4, 7).
 - Final decision maker's responsibility (10).
 - Spinster's chain (5, 4).
 - Presiding over search exercise (4).
 - Your Uncle Tom's American unit (4).
 - Old capital (10) (see 5).
 - Form with well-established lines of obscenity, perhaps (4).
 - Four million can be seen to be wrong (10).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,485



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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temp (Celsius) and lowest day temp (Celsius) recorded at major UK stations. Figures in italics indicate a new record for the date.

Station	Highest	Lowest
Aberdeen	11	4
Aberystwyth	11	4
Ammanford	11	4
Ardara	11	4
Belfast	11	4
Birmingham	11	4
Bournemouth	11	4
Bristol	11	4
Burnley	11	4
Cardiff	11	4
Cardiff Bay	11	4
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FORECAST

General: high pressure north of Britain will edge south, while a cold front remains slowmoving over south-west England and Wales. It will be mostly cloudy at first in England and Wales, with patchy rain or drizzle, but brighter conditions already over parts of northern England will move south across East Anglia and southeast England and perhaps the north Midlands. It will be cool.

Scotland and Northern Ireland should be mainly dry with sunny spells, but Northern Ireland may be cloudy at first with patchy drizzle. Northeast Scotland may have a light shower. It will be cool.

London, SE England, E Anglia, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England: any cloud and patchy drizzle will clear during the morning leaving bright or sunny intervals. Wind north-easterly, light to moderate. Max 14C (57F).

Central S England, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales: cloudy, a little rain or drizzle in places. Wind mostly light and variable, becoming moderate southeasterly later. Max 15C (59F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: mainly dry with sunny spells, but the chance of a light shower at times. Wind north or northeasterly, moderate occasionally fresh. Max 13C (55F).

SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland: dry with sunny intervals. Wind northeasterly, light to moderate. Max 14C (57F).

N Ireland: cloudy with patchy drizzle, but becoming drier and brighter later. Wind easterly, mostly moderate. Max 13C (55F).

Outlook: mainly dry with sunny intervals but rain at first in the south-west.

Pollen forecast today: all regions should be low.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Station	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Humidity	Pressure
Aberdeen	11	10	10	85	1012
Aberystwyth	11	10	10	85	1012
Ammanford	11	10	10	85	1012
Ardara	11	10	10	85	1012
Belfast	11	10	10	85	1012
Birmingham	11	10	10	85	1012
Bournemouth	11	10	10	85	1012
Bristol	11	10	10	85	1012
Burnley	11	10	10	85	1012

2

TODAY



The cool kings
of crude hit
the big screen
PAGES 35-37



**Cheap flights
are not always
easy going
PAGES 40, 41**



Remembering the
legend that just
runs and runs
PAGES 46-52

PAGES
50, 51

THURSDAY MAY 22 1997

BY ROBERT MILLER
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BSA faith, page 28
City reform, page 31

BY JASON NISSE

cent, with like-for-like sales at Ernest Jones increasing 12.2 per cent despite the uncertainty about that business's future for much of the year. US operating profits rose 17 per cent. But the company was cautious about this year, saying that consumer confidence in the UK was "variable" and the US was suffering from a historically high level of consumer debt. City analysts are pencilling in another strong increase in profits for this year to about £60 million. "The Signet businesses are in good shape," said one.

STOCK MARKET INDICES

STERLING
New York 1.6465* (1.6585)

BY JON ASHWORTH

Commentary, page 29
Bumper cheque, page 31

BY PAUL DURMAN

Celtech suffered a similar, but less serious, setback last year when it abandoned phase 2 research on an asthma drug. Yesterdays' blow sent the shares down from 630p to a low of 240p, though they recovered to 341p in heavy trading. Although Bayer has released few details about trials, the results kill Celtech's approach to septic shock, based on neutralising a protein called tumour necrosis factor.

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

and a statutory minimum wage. The talks with Mr Blair — which significantly came after the Prime Minister had already met leaders of the CBI — followed a similar meeting on Monday between senior union leaders and Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade.

The TUC also said it had held talks since the election with the CBI. Adair Turner, Director-General of the CBI, will address the TUC's annual conference in Brighton in September.



Union action, page 28

BY OLIVER AUGUST

TONY BLAIR is to ask **Helmut Kohl**, the German Chancellor, for a firm commitment to the Eurofighter at their first meeting tomorrow.

The £45 billion fighter aircraft is one of Britain's biggest industrial projects but its development stalled recently when the German Government failed to approve its slice of the funding. As many as 10,000 jobs at British Aerospace, one of four European partners building the plane, and its UK supplier base


depend on the Eurofighter production going ahead.

Mr Blair has signalled that he will lobby Herr Kohl at the mini-EU summit in Noordwijk, Holland. Mike Turner, president of the Society of British Aerospace Companies (SBAC) and a BAE executive director, said yesterday: "I am expecting Blair to press him."

The UK aerospace companies have held meetings with the Government, focusing on the Eurofighter.

Yesterday the SBAC formally launched its appeal for £100 million in annual government research and development aid. It claimed that more than 40,000 jobs could be lost in the UK aerospace industry over the next 15 years if the aid package, which the Tories failed to agree, was not granted.

The aerospace companies will match the public money in a move to neutralise the research advantage of US and European competitors who get government grants.



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Surprising slowdown in money supply growth

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE growth in money supply slowed unexpectedly in April, data published yesterday showed.

M4, the measure of broad money supply, rose by 0.5 per cent in April, bringing the annual rate down from 11.2 per cent in March to 10.4 per cent. The figures were well below City expectations of an 11.3 per cent increase, but remain above the monitoring range of 3 to 9 per cent.

Economists gave the figures a cautious welcome but said the slowdown was unlikely to convince the Bank of England that monetary growth is under control. The figures were flattered by the impact of gilt repo trading and better than expected PSBR data. Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, reiterated his belief, in the April monthly monetary meeting, that current levels of monetary growth are incompatible with meeting the inflation target. In the minutes of the meeting, which were also published yesterday, Mr George argued for a quarter-point rise in rates to head off inflationary pressures.

But Kenneth Clarke, in his last monetary meeting as Chancellor, overruled the Bank, arguing that the soaring pound was having a similar impact to interest rate rises. Mr Clarke said a quarter-point rise could be viewed by the market as the first in a series of rate rises, prompting another rally in the pound.

Separate data published yesterday by the Building Societies Association showed net new mortgage commitments last month rising to 54,000 from 46,000 in March. The seasonally adjusted figures for gross advances also showed a small rise from £3.15 billion to £3.25 billion. Economists said the big jump probably reflected a rush to snap up fixed-rate deals before the election.

But figures from the British Bankers' Association showed mortgage lending flat in April at £740 million, although overall personal lending increased from £1.05 billion to £1.23 billion. Tim Sweeney, director-general of the BBA, said the rise in personal lending was the second-largest monthly increase since the series began.

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Richard North, left, Bass finance director, and Sir Ian Prosser, chairman, saw half-year profits rise 10 per cent to £318 million, boosted by managed pubs

Bass shares hit by fears over Carlsberg-Tetley bid inquiry

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

BASS does not expect a decision by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on its purchase of Carlsberg-Tetley until the middle of next month, the company said yesterday as speculation mounted that the Government is preparing to veto the deal.

Shares in Bass fell by 22½ p. to 739½ p. in spite of the brewing and leisure group reporting a 10 per cent increase in half-year profits, excluding tax, to £318 million. Analysts said that they were concerned about the outcome of the Carlsberg-Tetley monopolies inquiry and about the

group's cautious stance on hotel growth.

Bass repeated its threat to walk away from the £205 million Carlsberg-Tetley deal if conditions are imposed that it regards as too tough. However, Sir Ian Prosser, chairman, said that the company is convinced that economic logic is on its side and that job losses would be greater if the merger of the two brewers is vetoed.

The company's improved half-year performance was led by strong results in its managed house and hotel division. Operating profits in the managed house division increased

by 12.6 per cent, to £116 million, with the group opening 74 new branded outlets in the first half of the year. Bass said that it is aiming to open a total of 200 managed outlets this year, including new brands such as Edwards and Bar Coast. Profits from the managed house division were flat, at £32 million.

Dollar profits in the hotels division rose by 10 per cent, to \$150 million, although growth was restricted to 5.6 per cent after translation to sterling. Bass said that it is looking to expand its Holiday Inn chain in Europe, but added that it is

seeing some slowdown in demand for budget hotels.

Corals, the betting business, enjoyed a successful half year, helping leisure division profits to rise by 11.4 per cent, to £39 million. Bass said that the installation of amusement machines in bookies, the introduction of new products and a better pace season had all contributed to an improvement in profit. However, the company refused to be drawn on speculation that it is interested in purchasing William Hill from Brent Walker.

The one blackspot was a 30 per cent fall in profits from the

Gala bingo business. Bass said that it would be reviewing the asset value of bingo outlets, currently on the balance sheet at £380 million.

Bass brewing increased profits by 7 per cent, to £77 million, with Carling, the UK's biggest-selling lager, increasing volumes by 6 per cent. Carling Premier sales rose by 70 per cent, while overall volumes increased by 1.9 per cent in a flat market. Bass's dividend is being increased by 7.8 per cent, to 8.3p, payable on July 28.

Commentary, page 29

Auditor holds up Lanica relisting

By JASON NISSE

LANICA TRUST, Andrew Regan's Guernsey-registered vehicle which backed the aborted bid for the Co-operative Wholesale Society, has been forced to put back the relisting of its shares because of delays in producing its accounts.

Shares in Lanica were suspended at £19.50 in February after the Stock Exchange became concerned that the company might have been breaching rules covering investment trusts because of the potential £1.2 billion bid for CWS by Galileo, in which Lanica is a major shareholder. Other backers of Galileo included the fund managers Schroders Investment Management and Jupiter Tyndall, and Kilk & Co, the stockbroker.

The bid was dropped last month and Galileo is now in

liquidation. The Exchange has told Lanica that it can relist its shares when it publishes its accounts, which were expected to come out yesterday.

However, although completed and audited, the accounts cannot be published because Lanica's auditor, Price Waterhouse, wants to put extra notes on them to take account of the bid for CWS and its aftermath.

The notes are likely to relate to legal actions that have followed the collapse of the Lanica offer. Mr Regan and David Lyons, his co-director, are understood to have contributed up to £1 million to legal costs of the CWS in settlement of a civil claim.

Ernst & Young, auditor of Galileo, has threatened to sue advisers for the bid.

DTI acts on gold 'lottery'

By ROBERT MILLER

MORE than 1,000 UK citizens are believed to have lost money when they signed up to a "Gold Accumulation Plan" scheme that has been pulling in more than £2 million a month from victims across Europe.

The Department of Trade and Industry said it had applied to the High Court for a petition to wind up Vanilla Services, a company based in The Netherlands, "in the public interest" and on the grounds that it was an illegal lottery. The Official Receiver was appointed provisional liquidator until a court hearing on June 25. The DTI found that the multi-level scheme offered members payments in gold coins rather than cash.

BSA retains faith in self-regulation

By CAROLINE MERRELL

THE Building Societies Association believes that its members may escape regulation by the enhanced regulatory authority announced this week by Gordon Brown.

At the annual Building Societies Association conference in Brighton yesterday, Adrian Coles, its director-general, said that he could see no reason why the current system of regulation by the Building Societies Commission should not continue. "The commission has been an extremely successful regulator. Despite the fact that the industry has been in the depths of a recession over the last few years, not a single person has been disadvantaged because of a building society investment," he said.

Geoffrey Fitchew, the BSC

chairman, said that he had not been aware of Mr Brown's plans and the commission had not been able to clarify whether societies would be regulated by the upgraded Securities and Investments Board.

Mr Coles did concede that the commission could eventually come under its control as "a separate department within the new regulating organisation". But he believes mortgages should be excluded from its control. He felt that a new code of practice on mortgages being introduced this year would be sufficient to protect consumers. The Nationwide Building Society admitted yesterday that it would have to reconsider its commitment to mutualism if rebel members are voted on to the board.

Union takes action — over TUC action

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT



Switched on: Peter Ibbotson, acting chief of Union Energy

THE Trades Union Congress, which plans to sell gas and electricity to members, faces a boycott by Union, Britain's biggest union.

Union, which has members in the gas and electricity industries, wants the TUC to ditch Union Energy.

Union Energy aims to make a profit from energy selling, part of which will be plugged into union-backed initiatives, such as energy efficiency. Union, which has 1.3 million members, will

refuse to provide its mailing lists to the company because it believes energy competition endangers jobs. Mike Terran, Union's head of energy, said: "Competition strikes at the areas where members' jobs are most at risk such as in billing. We have been pressing the TUC to abandon it."

Although the TUC has involved itself in insurance selling in its members the creation of a profit-making business operating within the privatised utilities is a huge

departure from the union movement's traditional roots.

Union Energy hopes to use the TUC's database, which will be about 5.7 million without Union members, to negotiate cheap deals with suppliers once the gas and electricity markets are fully liberalised. Peter Ibbotson, Union Energy's acting chief executive, said the company would offer easy-to-understand deals in a market that was likely to confuse many people.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Cammell Laird to be first listed repair yard

CAMMELL LAIRD will become the first ship repair yard to have a London listing after its flotation this summer. The yard, formerly part of VSEL before its acquisition by GEC, is making healthy profits after keeping labour costs below the European average. The company wants to raise £4 million to pay for the renovation of two dry docks at its Birkenhead base. The 47-acre site on the banks of the River Mersey is among the biggest of its kind in England. Investments in the technical services business are also planned. Market capitalisation will be about £20 million. Turnover doubled from £11 million to £22 million in the year to April 30, 1996, and pre-tax profits increased from £200,000 to £700,000. The latest full-year results, expected to show another increase in profits, will be included in the prospectus next month.

In the hugely labour-intensive ship repair business, UK companies enjoy a strong cost advantage in spite of the relative strength of sterling. They pay average hourly wages of \$26 while their German competitors pay \$52.5, according to International Ship Repair News.

ICL in First Direct link

ICL, the computer and information technology company, and First Direct, the telephone bank owned by Midland Bank, will conduct a 2,000-customer internet home banking trial in June. If successful, the service will be offered to any of the 650,000 First Direct customers with personal computers equipped with modems. Trial customers will be able to access accounts using a Web browser, allowing them to transfer funds between accounts, view statements and pay bills.

BA hits back in dispute

BRITISH AIRWAYS has hit back in its dispute with the cabin crew union, which is to ballot BA staff next week on strike action. Bob Ayling, chief executive, has written to Bill Morris, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU), explaining why BA withdrew office facilities previously made available free of charge to the British Airways Stewards and Stewardesses Association (BASSA). Mr Ayling said BA was committed to working positively with unions.

Demand for gold leaps

GOLD consumption in key world markets leapt to a record 771 tonnes in the first three months of this year on strong demand for jewellery in the Middle East and Asia, according to the World Gold Council. The producer body said demand in India and Indonesia was at all-time highs. However, prices languished because of adequacy of supply and a fear that other nations will follow The Netherlands in selling gold from reserves. First-quarter demand rose 17 per cent on 1996's first quarter.

Quadramatic advances

QUADRAMATIC, the industrial products company, had an 8 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £6.69 million, in the half-year to March 31 on turnover up to £35 million, from £29.5 million. However, basic earnings fell by 3 per cent, to 9.2p a share, after the issue of 3.4 million shares for the exercise of warrants and options. The interim dividend is 4.1p, up 8 p. The company expects a "satisfactory" outcome to the full year, in spite of any adverse effects of sterling's strength.

Coffee quotas extended

A RALLY in world coffee prices reignited when the Association of Coffee Producing Countries agreed to extend its current cartels-style export quotas for 12 more months to try to lock in gains from this year's spectacular rise in prices. At the Coffee, Sugar and Cocoa Exchange in New York, arabica coffee futures for July rose ten cents to \$2.50 per pound. Benchmark coffee futures prices or unroasted beans have almost doubled since January because of low stocks and tight Latin American supply.

P&O Nedlloyd loss \$31m

THE recently formed P&O Nedlloyd Container Lines reported a loss of \$31 million in the first quarter, compared with a profit loss a year earlier of \$13 million. The company said the merger of Nedlloyd Lines and P&O containers is ahead of schedule and will lead to greater synergy than originally forecast. However, savings will fall in subsequent quarters. Container revenue rates continued to decline as anticipated but the overall outlook is more positive, the company added.

Toyota races ahead

TOYOTA, the Japanese carmaker, raised profits 82 per cent to 620.44 billion yen (£3.3 billion) but disappointed analysts by forecasting a small rise to ¥630 billion for the current year. Toyota was helped last year by cost cuts and a weak yen but its forecast for the current year is more cautious and is based on a dollar/yen rate identical to last year's. Toyota said: "The weak yen boosted our parent operating income by ¥240 billion and cost-cutting efforts pushed it up by ¥110 billion."

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.22	Malta	0.659
Belgium S	20.35	Netherlands Gld	3.213
Denmark Kr	80.46	New Zealand \$	2.25
France F	2.22	Norway Kr	12.14
Germany M	2.068	Portugal Esc	202.00
Greece Dr	11.35	S Africa Rd	0.03
India Ru	8.21	Spain Ptas	166.00
Italy Lira	2.06	Sweden Kr	13.20
Japan Yen	13.86	Switzerland F	2.46
		Taiwan New	207.25
		USA \$	1.742

Prices for small denominated notes supplied by Deutsche Bank rates apply to transfer a cheques. Rates

Notes for small denomination bank notes supplied by Barclays Bank. Other rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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UK BANKS AND BUILDING SOCIETIES

Gordon Brown took a bit of a breather yesterday. After instigating huge reforms at the Bank of England, changing the shape of financial regulation and launching a University for Industry, the Chancellor's stiff-bristled broom was left in the corner for a while. But it will soon be back at work, and, for those who do not like surprises, there are clear warnings of where it may sweep next.

The speed with which the Chancellor's measures have poured forth may have shocked people, including Eddie George, but of the content, there had been plenty of warning. So the time has come to turn to a document published in April with the title: *Equipping Britain for the Future*.

This was Labour's Manifesto for Business, and between its covers, there are promises, or threats, of what the party, if elected, had planned. The scale of its majority will certainly have encouraged the new Government in its belief that it can move ahead quickly with its ideas, but the ideas are there. And for once, it seems, business would be ill-advised to ignore manifesto promises as mere electioneering.

A surprising number of the moves foreshadowed in that document have already been publicly adopted as government policy, ranging from a resurrection of the Public Finance Initiative to a review of the tax and benefits system. But there is

Brown's broom really sweeps clean



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

much more. How about a two-tier capital gains tax to encourage long-term investment? Or a new individual savings account to extend the principle of Tassas and Peps to promoting long-term savings?

We should soon see a beefed-up deregulation task force, with up to half the members coming from the small firms who struggle against strangulation by red tape. There was also the promise of improved loans for high-tech start-ups, although careful Mr Brown will keep his largesse within the resources of the existing loan guarantee scheme.

There should be fun to be had from his promise that every government department will be cajoled into drawing up a comprehensive register of its assets by November with the intention of superfluous assets being turned into cash. Sotheby's and Christie's should be rushing along with the nation's estate agents, if he sticks to his pledge that: "If there is no need for departments to hold property, land or other assets, they will be required to sell them."

Perhaps most important, there is the promise to reform Britain's competition laws. 'Greater predictability' and 'greater trans-

parency' are what the Chancellor promised in April. If he were to move fast on that front, business would applaud. Only the lawyers would have reason to complain.

Sir Ian Prosser is still waiting to learn whether his takeover of Carlsberg-Tetley is to be allowed to proceed. The uncertainty is damaging for at least one of the companies involved in such an impasse. If Labour wants to be tough on competition, this deal could be the first victim.

Reaction tarnishes Signet's shake-up

Jim McAdam is a pretty solid old warhorse. But even his gruff Glaswegian hide could not help but be hurt by the churlish reaction of the market to the revelation of Signet's long-awaited capital restructuring.

After all, McAdam, who took the helm five years ago when Gerald Ratner was ousted from the

jewellery group that then bore his name, has spent the last eight months in smoke-filled rooms with lawyers, accountants and merchant bankers trying to find a way to turn Signet's nine classes of share into one. Together, they have come up with a structure that looks like working — and Signet shares fall 20 per cent as soon as the deal sees the light of day.

Maybe it is inertia. This deal has been waiting for regulatory approval in the US for nearly three months and the broad brush of its structure has been known by those who really matter — particularly Julian Treger, of rebel shareholder UK Active Value Fund — for a while. Treger, who is supported by a fan club of interestingly named investors such as Everest Capital and Sass Associates which will own about 35 per cent of the restructured group, gave the proposals a reserved thumbs up (subject to studying the fine

print) yesterday. This is about as positive as McAdam and co could have expected.

Treger's backing is essential. He has argued for three years that Signet's preposterous shareholding structure, which involves eight classes of preference share owed £165 million in interest, has to be sorted out. McAdam spent a long time with his head in the sand until Treger forced him into action. When the attempt to sell the UK jewellery business to Apex Partners fell apart last September, McAdam was finally galvanised into action.

How the cake was going to be divided was always going to depend on art rather than science. Leaving the ordinary shareholders with just 17.5 per cent of the final company looks stingy at first glance — especially as the preference shareholders no longer have the power to push the group into receivership now that it is solidly profitable. But without this deal, the ordinary

holders might have to wait a decade before hearing the rattle of dividends. Now they only have to wait a year. Assuming this company can make £60 million this year, and the underlying businesses are at last doing quite well, its market value could easily top £600 million, making yesterday's share price drop look foolish as well as churlish.

Pilkington through the looking glass

Pilkington's public relations team was working valiantly yesterday to explain that Roger Leverton, its chief executive, has done a great job for the company. That, of course, is why he is being paid up to £1 million to make a hasty exit and allow a new man to take the helm.

The fact is that the giant glassmaker fails to produce the same level of returns as its international competitors, who must also be suffering the same atrocious market conditions that have for so long been the company's excuse for disappointing.

Chairman Sir Nigel Rudd is determined that Pilkington can

be made to work. Installing a foreigner as chief executive may be the way to finally change the culture that has dogged the company as it struggled to modernise. Sir Anthony Pilkington, who retired in 1995, was the fifth generation of the family that founded the firm. If the pattern is clogs to clogs in three generations, then Pilkington came close to going barefoot after Sir Anthony presided over its disastrous moves into solar glass.

Perhaps it was the family company's climate of deference that prevented more drastic changes after that debacle. But Sir Nigel, with his reputation on the line, is clearly determined that they should come now. Planned restructurings will go further than the 1,900 job cuts already announced.

A very different company should emerge...

Staff appraisal

FOR a company that makes its living by finding the right people to slot into high-powered jobs, BNB Resources has an unfortunate personnel record. The rate at which high-fee earners have left the group will take its toll on profits. Shareholders at today's annual meeting may inquire, tactfully, as to the latest departures and whether chairman David Norman's hefty salary can continue to survive his inability to keep staff.

Carlton gives win or lose digital pledge

By ERIC REGULY

CARLTON Communications said yesterday that it will expand in the digital TV market, which will see the launch of hundreds of new channels, even if it loses the digital licence sweepstakes.

Carlton said it expects the Independent Television Commission to award digital terrestrial licences before the end of June. A Carlton-led consortium, which includes Granada and BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster that is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, is competing for the licence with the Digital Terrestrial Network, owned by NTL, an American cable group.

The Carlton group was the early favourite but NTL's chances of winning seem to have improved in recent weeks. United News & Media and the BBC-Flextech joint programming venture said they will back NTL if it wins.

Win or lose, Carlton said it will provide programming to the new digital broadcasters. The company's library, with 7,500 hours of TV programmes and 1,000 films, is

one of Europe's largest. The Quantel subsidiary, which makes digital editing systems, is growing rapidly as TV companies prepare for the digital launch.

Michael Green, chairman of Carlton, said: "Digital terrestrial TV brings enormous opportunities... Carlton will definitely be involved as a major producer and distributor of television programmes and films."

Stronger advertising and programme sales helped to lift Carlton's pre-tax profits by 13 per cent, to £163 million, in the half year to March 31, on turnover of £896 million, up 6 per cent. Earnings per share were 17.3p, up 13 per cent.

Operating profits rose in all divisions bar the video business, which makes and distributes video cassettes for the major Hollywood studios. Carlton said that a disappointing mix of titles was behind the downturn.

The interim dividend, due to be paid on August 22, rises 12 per cent to 4.9p.

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Sketchley discovers £10m hole

By FRASER NELSON

SKETCHLEY, the troubled dry-cleaning and Supasnap chain, is expected to part company with its finance director today after discovering a £10 million hole in its account books.

Yesterday the company gave warning that "deficiencies" in its financial reporting structure had obscured extra expenses that will wipe out the £8 million profit it was expected to make.

It promised to make "immediate changes" and is holding a special board meeting today to "implement changes to the accounting and finance functions". It is understood that this is likely to result in the departure of Richard Meyers, its finance director.

Sketchley's shares lost more than a quarter of their value, falling 23p to 65p — their lowest point for 20 years. Analysts now expect the company to return a loss of £2 million for the year to March 31, in spite of the £21.6 million it raised last year through a rights issue at 105p a share.

New stores lift Blacks Leisure

By FRASER NELSON

THE surge in demand for sportswear helped Blacks Leisure to a huge increase in its profits last year.

The company, which opened 30 stores in the period, lifted pre-tax profits to £10.2 million (£2.1 million) in the year to February 28. Sales rose to £90.8 million (£68.4 million).

Active Venture, Blacks' newly developed "lifestyle" chain, broke into profit over the year with sales of £6.2 million (£400,000) as the number of stores increased from one to six.

Blacks Outdoor, its specialist sports arm, increased profits to £4.2 million (£2.8 million). First Sport, which is aimed at teenagers, opened 13 stores over the year and had seven refurbished. This helped to lift its contribution to £10.6 million (£6 million).

Overall, earnings were 22.6p (5.54p) a share. A final dividend of 2.75, due on October 3, brings the total to 4p.

Tempus, page 30

National Power call

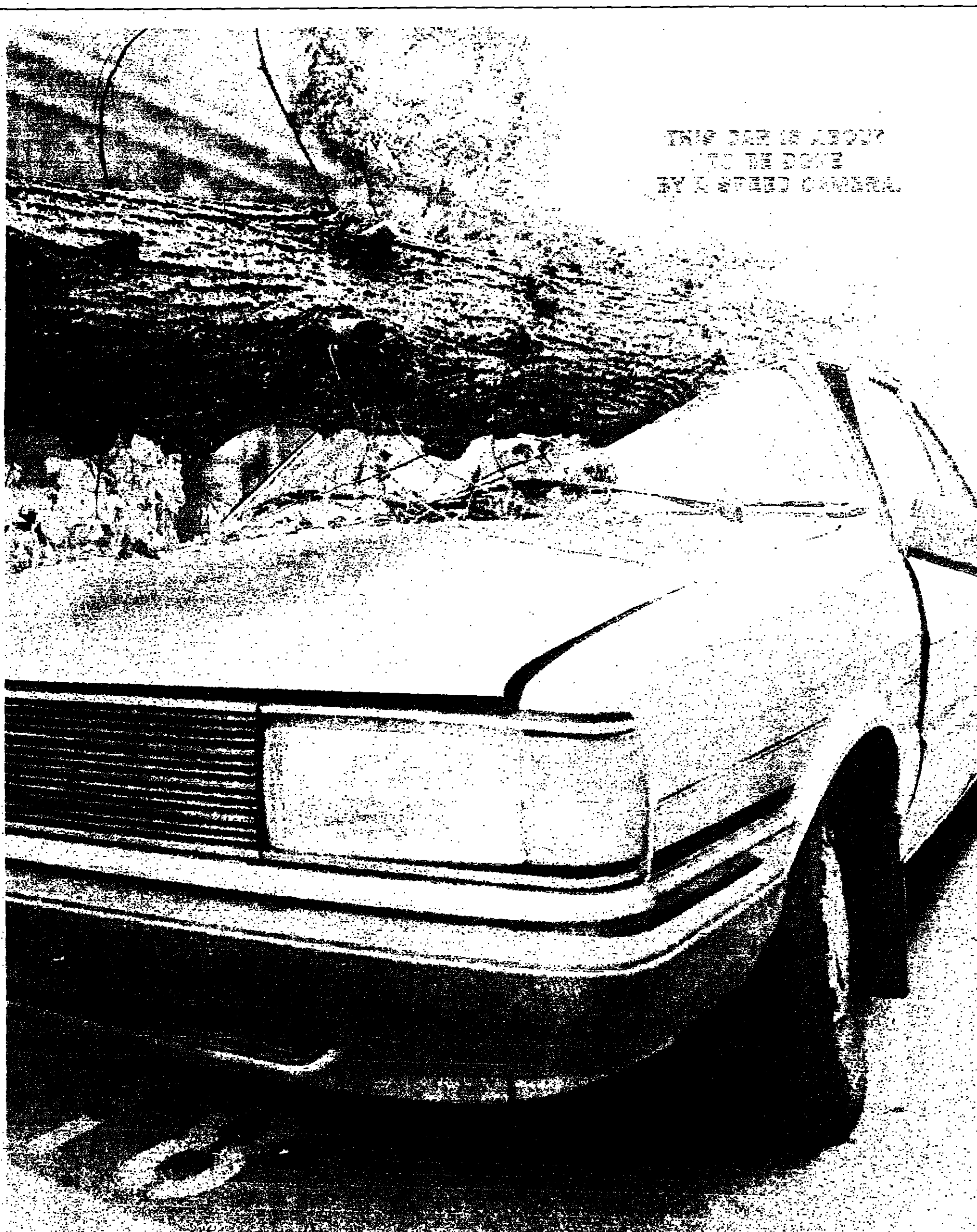
By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL POWER, the country's biggest electricity generator, yesterday demanded exemption from the Government's windfall tax on utilities. But the company stopped short of threatening legal action, saying instead that it intended to press its case in dialogue with the Government.

National Power believes it should escape any part of the £3 billion-plus tax because it is not a monopoly, because its

activities are unregulated and because taxpayers gained from its sale to a greater extent than they did from the sale of regional electricity companies and the water industry.

Yesterday National Power reported an 8 per cent drop in profits to £740 million before tax and exceptional items. The decline was the result of the sale of power stations that was imposed by the regulator last year. The final dividend is 19p, making a total of 25p.



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Headlong gallop to the long term



GORDON BROWN

Gordon Brown promised to hit the floor running. This proved an understatement. He hit it galloping and is still galloping in all directions. Britain has not seen the like for 18 years. Even Sir Geoffrey Howe, as Chancellor at the start of the Conservative Government, took a month to fulfil a stroke his assistant, long-term ambition to polish exchange controls. Thus far, Mr Brown's actions are to his pre-election commitments as the wartime Blitz was to a modest desire for more open spaces in British cities. From a seemingly proposal to depersonalise interest and exchange rates to a grandiose plan for the most comprehensive state financial watchdog in the Western world. Just possibly this explosion of activity is intended to mask the

seemingly lack of differences between new Brown and old Clarke that seduced business into blissful calm at election time. More likely hyperactivity will speak louder than soothing manifesto words in other areas too, including Europe, the Budget and utility regulation. That logical, worryingly complex reform of City regulation was, to be fair, announced prematurely. Mr Brown wants to take away the central bank's powers to supervise commercial banks in the early Bill needed to legitimise its new monetary regime and to bring in a second deputy governor. The Bank had certainly asked for an "independent" monetary policy. In a different sense of the term it had also asked for banking supervision to be taken away from it. The threat of insolvency may well be healthy for a competitive banking system. It is an intellectually untenable philosophy for a

prudential supervisor and is bound to infect the attitudes of its line staff to banks' judgments. Taking the two changes together, plus the final, inevitable transfer of debt management to the Treasury, the Old Lady doubtless reckons it has a good bargain. Maybe. Members of the Bank's court, itself soon to be reformed, should remember that Mr Brown's thoughts claim to be relentlessly long term. They should also remember the kulaks. These yeomen of rural Russia, you may recall, were unexpectedly wooed by Lenin to restore food production after the civil war. Once they had achieved this Stalin massacred them. The worst that could happen to the Bank of England is to slip elegantly into a more decorative part of the City's constitution, like the Lord Mayoralty, and, more recently, the Stock Exchange. This

would happen only if sterling joined the euro, but not right at the start. The Bank would then lose monetary policy, foreign exchange trading, currency printing and the gold reserves, and much of its role in keeping the financial system stable. But it would have little or no chance of gaining an operating role in markets on behalf of the European central bank, as the

Federal Reserve Bank of New York acts for the US Treasury. For the Bank, Britain's acceptance of the euro should come now or never. The code words of the Chancellor's messages on EMU consistently suggest that he wants to join in. It should be decided soberly on economic grounds. He was at it again at the CBI's red-tie dinner on Tuesday. The test should be the impact of EMU on jobs, investment and growth. Opinions will remain as divided as ever on this, as on other aspects of EU relations. Note, however, that specific economic doubts tend to be short-term: that Britain will be locked into a deflationary fiscal-monetary stance at too high an exchange rate. The long-term effects on are conjectural and more favourable. They fit perfectly with his theme of stability for business. But the decision to apply is not his.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, has pursued the party line that we are unlikely to be in the first wave. In part, no doubt, this stems from a presumption that voters would turn down the idea if a referendum were held soon. The Tories' election slaughter may have changed that presumption. Early entry should no longer be ruled out of business planning. If Labour's plans work as it wishes, the more likely outcome is a decision to join made either just before or just after the next election. Meanwhile, the Chancellor is galloping headlong from his City reforms to his first Budget. The betting must be on radical changes here too, rather than a modest emergency Budget to bring in a utility tax. In fiscal policy, however, there is a great conflict between quick radical action and long-term thinking. The Chancellor

would surely not wish to preempt his task force on the tax and benefit system or the thoughts of newly-installed Frank Field. Supposedly easy ways to raise taxes, as the Chancellor is being urged to do, are equally short-termist. Axing pension fund tax privileges would undermine the pensions drive before it started. It might well backfire if companies have to top up their funds under the rules of the 1995 pension law. Even worse, it would cut the long-term product of those savings. Axing mortgage interest relief for new buyers would wreak havoc in the lower end of the housing market because millions could not afford to move. A truly long-term Budget could bring welcome surprises. The Chancellor, aping Kenneth Clarke, told the CBI that he wanted to cut the Budget deficit "in the medium term". To do that he might well phase out Miras over two or three years. He might even phase the utility tax over a full four years. Even in the Budget shocks can be pleasant.



George: loses one of his roles



Davies: in charge of new role



Supervision no longer rests with the Bank



Liddell: charm offensive



Darling: reassuring staff

Brown's Bill must offer safety for savers and a stick for City sinners

Robert Miller outlines the main objectives of the new financial watchdog system as the Government sets a heady pace for reform

Gordon Brown is a canny cove. When he rode out on Tuesday to tackle the complex and often arcane world of the City and the way in which financial services are policed he must have known that he was taking on one of the most sophisticated and voracious lobbying machines in town. But the Chancellor judged his moment well. With memories still fresh from "last week's" showdown at the Treasury with personal pensions mis-sellers — not least in the minds of a million or so victims — he wrapped himself in the twin flags of investor protection and enhancing London's pre-eminent position among the global markets. In his crisp delivery style, Mr Brown railed at his vision of the future and a super-SIB. Much of it was just that — a vision. However, rather than simply call for a consultation period, which would have been an invitation to the life, pensions and investment lobbies to chop down acres of trees for their submissions, he gave them a broad template from which to work and probably shortened the run-up to an all-embracing Financial Services Act Mark 2 by at least a year. First, he declared that the old system of self-regulation was officially finished — a pronouncement that was greeted with almost universal relief.

Time, markets, and above all people's investment needs have changed out of all recognition since the 1986 Financial Services Act made its debut. Now the multitude of front-line regulators who police fund managers, brokers and futures dealers and firms that sell direct to the public will be rolled into the Securities and Investments Board, the most senior City watchdog. And, for good measure, Mr Brown said that banking supervision and surveillance would be taken away from the Bank of England and Eddie George, its Governor, and passed to the SIB. The Bank's 430-strong banking supervision staff will move to the SIB's new offices under the respected leadership of Michael Foot. The snag? No office space has yet been found to accommodate an enlarged SIB staff of around 1,500. But — and this is where Mr Brown has been canny — the main change in how banks will be supervised, and by which body, can be entrusted in legislation already being drafted: the Bank of England Bill, which was unveiled in the Queen's Speech. So the first stage in the wide-sweeping reforms is already under way.

The next round of detail on how the different and diverse aspects of financial services regulation will be brought together is being considered by Sir Andrew Large, the outgoing chairman of the SIB, and his successor at the end of July, Howard Davies, the current Deputy Governor of the Bank of England. Mr Brown has already pencilled in a date in his diary in July for an update and expects plans to be well advanced by then. The Treasury, meanwhile, has begun drafting the new Financial Services Bill and this is expected to be published in the first half of next year after which MPs, consumer organisations and industry bodies will be able to debate the subject. The first inkling of the difficulties the Treasury faces may come not from the dry and finer points of law but the characters involved. It is no secret that many in the front-line regulators have no time for the SIB or its senior managers. They feel that with a staff of around 200 and a budget of around £22 million the SIB is an expensive waste of time, merely duplicating much of the work done by the front-liners. In a valedictory speech in London on Tuesday

night, Sir Andrew said that certain aspects of the SIB's relationship with fellow regulators had at times taken on "an Alice-in-Wonderland quality". The chief executives of the front-line watchdogs — Colette Bowe on the retail side, Phillip Thorpe for fund managers, and Nick Durracher on the markets and derivatives side, have all been tipped at various stages to become the number two to the SIB chairman, who we now know is Howard Davies. The SIB's current chief executive is Andrew Winckler, a former Treasury mandarin, who has worked closely with Mr Davies on various regulatory matters, not least on the SIB board, of which the Deputy Governor is a member. Mr Winckler is tipped to keep his post. While the front-line chiefs are very experienced, it remains to be seen whether they will all fit into the new super-SIB. Similarly, the next level down of senior directors have built up tribal loyalties to their chiefs and they too may find it difficult to transfer allegiances. The less loyal have already been lured by the private sector with large salaries, and others may be

tempted. Alistair Darling, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, have thus embarked on a charm offensive to reassure people who are critical to the new system working that they are needed. Mr Brown's over-worked Treasury bosses must also consider that, in drafting two pieces of hugely complex legislation in tandem, nothing escapes the net. In banking, for example, Mr Foot's supervisors enjoy some far-reaching powers to investigate. These should be retained. However, regulation is about perception. In the past, if someone was to be expelled from the City, the lethal flick of the eyebrow was always delivered in private. In the brave new world of Government openness, wrong-doing should be clearly flagged. On the broader financial services front, there are questions over just what should be embraced in the new Act. Mortgages is one example where the Government would be failing consumers if they were not to be taken out of consumer credit legislation and placed firmly in the heart of the proposed new Bill. The Building Societies Commission is

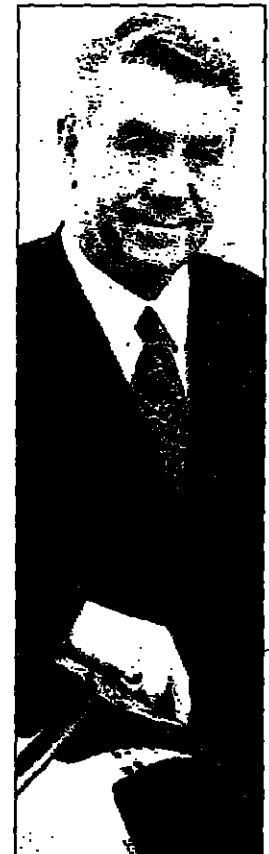
another body likely to disappear. It would seem odd indeed if the Bank's supervisors could not cast their eagle eye over a diminishing number of smaller societies, many of whose larger brethren are converting to banking status this summer. What may prove slightly more difficult is how to handle the seemingly endless trading markets covering such diverse commodities as copper, coffee, petroleum, and futures and options. But these, like the Stock Exchange, are already licensed to conduct business by the SIB and this situation is likely to continue. The Lloyd's of London insurance market this week applied to be regulated by the SIB. Given past failures at Lloyd's, the SIB and the Treasury must surely accede to this request. Finally, there are sanctions for rule-breakers, which should remember that public shaming can often be a stronger deterrent than big fines. On this point, the Treasury draftsman face their sternest test. They must draw up laws and contracts between the regulated and their regulators that cannot be endlessly challenged in the courts. The new Bill must also contain some civil remedies that are effective in sending out the crucial twin messages: To investors: "your money is safe". To those who work in the financial markets: "if you break the rules, you get it in the neck."

Bumper cheque eases the pain for the ailing company doctor

It's tough at the top but there is compensation for the mighty if they fall, says Jon Ashworth

Pity the company doctor. That fabled personage, clutching corporate stethoscope, and brimming with bold ideas, invariably ends up on the floor of the operating theatre, along with the patient and all the panoply of nurses and equipment. What price the big payoff, when one's reputation lies in tatters? Roger Leverton, headhunted from RTZ in 1992 to lead the revival of Pilkington, could not have been too surprised to learn, on Monday, that his services were no longer required. Sir Nigel Rudd, the non-executive chairman, took him aside and broke the news that his company doctoring had missed the mark. The patient remained in a sorry state. Exit Leverton, nursing a bruised ego, but with a payoff approaching £1 million to help ease the pain. Leverton is hardly the first company chief to fall foul of the non-executive pack. Jim Maxmin, the American recruited in 1991 to lead the revival of Laura Ashley, was

decided it was time for a change at Spring Ram, the absurdly named kitchens and bathrooms group. Tiring of repeated profits warnings, and mindful of the circling predators, they forced the departure of Bill Rooney, replacing him with Roger Regan, father of Andrew. Regan was shrewd enough to state at the outset that it would take at least three years to sort out the mess, deftly covering himself against successive losses. The shares, trading at 172p five years ago, closed at 13p yesterday. Regan declared recently that the company should make a "substantial" profit in 1998, adding: "I've taken the stick. I want to be around to take the praise."



Leverton: big payoff

As serial doctors go, one feels some sympathy for Stephen Walls, currently battling on at Albert Fisher, the foods group. An accountant, and one-time aide to Robert Sangster, the racing tycoon, he was up against the ropes as far back as 1989, when Plessey, of which he was managing director, found itself on the receiving end of a bid by GEC and Siemens of Germany. Sent packing with a £1 million payoff, some of which went on a black Porsche with white leather trim, Walls turned up at BAT Industries, where he oversaw the stock market spin-off of Wiggins Teape and Appleton, the paper groups. The delisted company promptly merged with Arjomari-Prioux of France, creating Arjo Wiggins Appleton, and Walls was pushed out as chief executive. Hence Albert Fisher, where he replaced Tony Mullar as chairman. Roy Barber, recently at Raine, the troubled house-

Secret society

ONE of the most secretive and impenetrable organisations in the country threw its doors open yesterday, by taking the extraordinary step of advertising for staff in the national media. I had always assumed that one joined — too vulgar a word, that, one was selected — after a discreet approach in one's last year at Oxbridge. Perhaps an interview with a friendly tutor with contacts in the right places, sounding out your reliability over tea and muffins?

Were you politically sound? No dubious friends or acquaintances, to whom sensitive information might accidentally leak? No lapses in your private life that might cause embarrassment later? But there it was, a strip across a full page in the Pink 'Un. "Opportunities in Corporate Finance," it said. "Acting for more than 340 UK companies and over 100 overseas companies, Cazenove & Co is London's leading corporate broker." Turn the page, and there's even a small ad for a South-East Asia sales trader too. An insider confirms that, indeed, this is a first for Caz. Truly, the Cold War is over. Elsewhere in the press, M15 were looking for intelligence officers, incongruously advertising among the social workers being sought in *The Guardian*. M15? Hub. An open secret for years.

● A RETAILER of "fine jewellery", is how Theodore Goddard, City law firm, describes Signet Group, ne Rainers. Funny, that isn't what Gerald Rainer used to call the stuff.

Life's a bitch

STAFF at M&G are settling in nicely in their swish new offices at Minster Court, which boasts the longest esca-



lator in Europe. The complex has, however, a previous tenant. I hear, with a colder heart than any City fund manager, Sie is Cruella de Ville, villain of 101 Dalmatians, as played by Glenn Close in the recent film, in which Minister Court was used as her office.

Foreboding

"MORE than 4" is the slogan of the GMB, campaigning for a minimum wage of £4 at least. But some disturbing news for employers reaches me from inside the union. Apparently, in preparation for what is clearly seen as a rolling campaign, a whole series of slogans has been dreamed up by John Edmonds, general secretary,

and his men. "Strive for 5" is one. And there's "7 would be heaven". And "Can't wait for 8". Eight quid as a minimum hourly wage? Dream on. Alas, £6 is causing the image men a bit of a problem. "£6 on 6" has too much of a air of finality about it.

● NO, THIS is true, I promise. Harold Morley, chairman of a deeply sinister-sounding company called Ultramind, was a little surprised to see his main product featured so heavily in the BBC's *The Lying Game*, presented by Angus Deayton, as the perfect lie detector. As was the inventor, Tuvil Orbach, who had designed the computer program as a stress reducer, a use on show at the Technology Investor Show at the Barbican yesterday ahead of the company's AIM float this year. Alas, higher stress levels apparently indicate a lack of respect for the truth, so the device has a useful second function. The BBC, it seems, never told him. Would I lie to you?

Signing off

THIS is also true. Well, my source was speaking in sign language, which allows for some difficulty in translation, but here goes. The Prudential, led by that nice Peter Davis, is in horrible trouble with the Securities and Investments Board for flagging wildly inappropriate investment products. The SIB put in a hit team for two months to go through the Pru

very carefully. It seems the investigators were rather surprised by the compliance officers at the Pru — a breed of men and women who are charged with upholding the law, but who used sign language to the Pru staff being interviewed to prevent them giving too much away. Extraordinary, but true, and pretty shameful, you would have thought. But it gets worse. I ring the Pru for confirmation. Says a spokesman, and please, he is only doing his job: "I've got no documentation on that." No, you wouldn't have that is why they were using sign language.

MARTIN WALLER



Peter Davis would need to read between the signs with some staff



"I see the chief executive has had to leave suddenly"

C&W pays \$652m for stake in Panama telephones

By ERIC REGULY

CABLE and Wireless filled a gap in its Caribbean network yesterday with the purchase of 49 per cent of Intel, the Panamanian national phone company, for \$652 million.

The purchase is part of C&W's strategy of buying controlling stakes in overseas phone companies and shedding the ones that are held for investment purposes only. Dick Brown, chief executive of C&W, said: "We want to go into places where we can substantially influence or control our investment."

The purchase came as C&W signalled that it is open to offers for its 30 per cent of Petersburg Long Distance, a telecoms company quoted on the Toronto exchange that provides international service in St Petersburg. The investment was made under Lord Young, C&W chief executive until late 1995.

C&W will have management and operating control of Intel. The Panamanian Government will hold 49 per cent with the remaining 2 per cent held in trust for employees.

Intel is very profitable, with pre-tax earnings of \$153 million on turnover of \$246 million in 1996. C&W said that Intel will enhance earnings from the outset. Intel plans to invest several hundred million dollars over the next three to five years to upgrade and expand its network. It will include installing digital technology.

Mr Brown said that the potential for growth at Intel is good because Panama has only 12 phone lines per 100 head of population and the economy is growing strongly. Panama has been called the Hong Kong of Central America.

C&W plans to consolidate some of Intel's back-office operations with those of its other Caribbean phone companies. C&W is the dominant telecoms operator in the region, with monopoly businesses in most islands.



Gordon Campbell says Courtaulds has a sound platform for growth and he expects to make further advances this year

Boost for Courtaulds price as profits rise

By PAUL DURMAN

COURTAULDS, the chemicals company that makes Tencel, the highly versatile fabric, enjoyed the rarity of a good day in the stock market as it managed to produce a small increase in its annual profits.

Shares in Courtaulds climbed 24p to 330p, ending a slide from 487p last October. The company has underperformed the market by 70 per cent over the past five years and was dropped from the FTSE 100 index six months ago. Its shares reached 605p in 1993.

Courtaulds made a pre-tax profit of £134 million in the year to March 31, a 2 per cent rise from £131 million in the previous year. Although this

fell short of the £160 million that was hoped for a year ago, Howard Evans, finance director, said analysts were pleased that net borrowings came in at £320 million, substantially below expectations. The borrowings, up from £271 million, represent gearing of 46 per cent (38 per cent).

The company was hit by the strong pound and continuing overcapacity in viscose production. The fibre also has to struggle against a lack of fashionability. Courtaulds is cutting output at its Grimsby plant, but it believes more radical action may be needed to turn the business round.

The fall in viscose profits

obscured the progress made with Tencel, which made its first significant contribution to profits last year. This helped the fibres and chemicals division to increase operating profits 14 per cent to £65 million. The group is still unwilling to spell out the details of its Tencel business because of commercial sensitivity.

Tencel, made from wood pulp, feels like silk but is as tough as denim. Many of Courtaulds's hopes are pinned on the fibre, in which the group has already invested more than £360 million.

Courtaulds will begin producing Tencel from a third plant, also in Grimsby, in

October. This will lift output to about 90,000 tonnes a year. A fourth plant, planned for Asia, is scheduled to open in 2000. Operating profits from the coatings and sealants business rose 13 per cent to £81 million. Most of the improvement came from cost savings over the past couple of years, and strong growth in the Far East.

Gordon Campbell, chief executive, said Courtaulds has a sound platform for growth and expects to make further advances this year.

A final dividend of 11.95p a share, due on July 31, makes a total 3 per cent up at 16.4p, nearly 80 per cent of earnings of 20.7p a share.

Bluebird shares hit by setback in US sales

By FRASER NELSON

SHARES of Bluebird Toys plunged to a four-year low yesterday after it gave warning that its new range of Polly Pocket and Disney dolls had been given a cool reception in the United States.

The company, which relies on North America for 26 per cent of its business, said that it had suffered from "overcautious inventory management" by US toy shops, forcing this year's profits sharply below expectations.

The City, which had high hopes for the Disney range, cut profit forecasts from £13 million to £9 million for this year, which would be Bluebird's worst performance since the recession. The shares fell to 107p from 169p.

Chris Bargin, chief executive, said European sales, which make up two thirds of the business, were not suffering. "The Polly Pocket and Disney brands are performing satisfactorily in most major markets and continue to dominate the girls' miniature collectables sector."

The Disney range, launched last summer, was intended to help the company to overcome the slowing toy market after growth in demand for Polly Pocket, its core product, began to weaken. Analysts attributed the American slump to toy sellers who overordered Polly Pockets last year. Many were left with dolls they could not sell.

One analyst said: "We're looking at basic human psychology: retailers had stock they couldn't shift in 1996 and are being more careful in making orders this time. They are not taking a long-term view; it's a hangover... and it should clear eventually."

Resilient ABH soars 37% after demerger

PRE-TAX profits for Airlines of Britain Holdings (ABH), which includes British Midland Airways, rose 37 per cent to £8.5 million in 1996, the company announced yesterday. British Midland contributed a pre-tax profit of £7.1 million (£4.9 million). The group's airlines carried 7.7 million passengers last year, a 7 per cent increase. Scheduled passengers carried by British Midland increased from 5.3 million in 1995 to 5.6 million in 1996.

Sir Michael Bishop, ABH chairman, said: "The group's airlines have recorded a satisfactory improvement in performance during a period of unprecedented competition, and proved resilient in adapting to the new market conditions." British Regional Airlines and Manx Airlines were restructured during the past two years and their activities were demerged from ABH in February 1997. In future they will report their results separately.

Coutts Consulting warns

SHARES in Coutts Consulting fell from 47p to 35p after the group said that first-half earnings would be "significantly below" those in the previous year. Stephen Johnson, the chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting that some weakness had been evident in recent months, particularly in UK outplacement. Mr Johnson said: "Action has already been taken to reduce costs substantially." He said the group continued to trade profitably.

Cable firm losses deepen

GENERAL CABLE, one of the few remaining independent cable companies, said its "churn", or discontinuation rate, rose from 23 per cent to 40 per cent in the quarter to March 31 as subscribers dropped their expensive cable-TV subscriptions and opted for cable-telephone services only. Churn rates have since recovered. General reported a quarterly loss of £21.8 million (£9.7 million loss). The deeper loss was expected and was because of amortisation charges and network expansion costs.

Merchant raises stake

MERCHANT RETAIL GROUP, owner of Joplings Stores and The Perfume Shop, is lifting its stake in A. de Grochy Holdings, which runs Jersey's premier department store, from 12.5 per cent to 28.7 per cent at a £4.36 million cost, met from cash and by a vendor placing. Merchant had pre-tax profits of £1.77 million in the year to March 29 (£2.16 million loss). Earnings were 1.43p a share (£2.7p loss). The final dividend is 0.25p (nil). Merchant is raising £2 million in a placing to redeem preference shares.

Fenner buys Scandura

FENNER, the UK power equipment maker, is acquiring Scandura Holdings, the North American conveyor belt manufacturer, for \$49 million. Scandura had trading income of \$11.6 million in 1996. The acquisition is to be paid from the proceeds of a £13.5 million vendor placing. Fenner also reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £8.7 million (£8.25 million) in the half-year to February 28. Earnings were 5.34p a share (£6.1p). The dividend is 1.6p a share (£1.7p).

Wilson Bowden sells

WILSON BOWDEN, the housebuilder and property developer, has sold Fort retail park in Edinburgh to Pillar Property Investments for £41.8 million. The 128,000 sq ft warehouse development is under construction and scheduled for completion this year. Pillar, the property investment and development group, said £17 million of the total price was payable on exchange and the balance after completion in September. Pillar will own 14 retail parks, worth about £210 million.

Strong retail market lifts Land Securities

By ADAM JONES

LAND SECURITIES reported profits ahead of expectations yesterday and a 13.3 per cent rise in net asset value, triggering a surge in property shares.

In the year to March 31, Land Securities made a pre-tax profit of £243.8 million (£237.6), at the top end of market expectations. Net asset value rose to 783p a share from 691p.

Property analysts appeared to have underestimated the strength of the retail market, including retail warehouses and shopping centres. Yesterday they upgraded the NAV forecasts for the current year to around 900p.

The rise in pre-tax profits included a £14.5 million surplus from property sales, offset by a £6.4 million charge from the cancellation of two interest rate swaps.

Stripping out these one-off factors, the underlying revenue profit fell from £238.7 million to £235.7 million. However, this fall was the result of a development programme and had been anticipated last year.

The value of Land Securities' portfolio grew 8.2 per cent to £5.76 billion, with 28 per cent of the value held in shops and offices in Victoria, central London, and the West End.

Sir Peter Hunt, who is to make way for Ian Henderson as managing director in July 1998 while remaining chairman, said that retail growth remains patchy. "The future is somewhat uncertain as a result of the recent change of government, but we are hoping that new policies will create

sufficient confidence to add further stimulus to the property market."

A final dividend of 19.65p, due on July 14, makes a total of 27p (26p) for the year. Land Securities' shares rose 30p to 74p, MFCP rose 14p to 500p and British Land 28p to 58p.

However, demand was disappointing for British Land's £300 million convertible bond issue, despite John Ritblat, the chairman, saying on Tuesday that the deal had met exceptional demand in Europe.

Menace to a bold innovation

Tony Sainsbury finds little to cheer about in Acca's secession

IN 1993 the Association of Certified Accountants set up an Institute of Accounting Staff (IAS) and in 1995 the other three London-based chartered accountancy bodies established an Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT). There was no significant difference in our B2B bodies were created to provide a junior but professional qualification, originally intended mainly for the benefit of the support staff employed by the members of the sponsoring bodies.

AIA was especially careful to deprecate any reference to a "second tier" body, and it and IAS were to be seen separate from their sponsors, and were indeed expected to make their own way in the world. From the start, however, there were some to whom it seemed that a debt of loyalty was owed. A major should prevent so unnecessary a multiplication of entities.

And especially at a time when Government and many members of the profession could not comprehend why the six senior chartered bodies had failed to close ranks. Perhaps having only two junior bodies was to be seen as an advance. But having a third, the English Institute, led by a charismatic minute man, to persuade its own membership into any closer association with the other five,

and there were audible and to a growing number of critics, understandable warnings from the Government that unless the profession got its act together it might find itself under marching orders in that direction. Another, more limited, effort was made elsewhere and failed, and the critics became more restless. It was in this context that two of the then presidents — Eric Sayers, of the English Institute, and Edmund Giblin, of the Certified — agreed that something must be done to demonstrate that at least some of the senior bodies could work together. It may seem now more apparent than it did then that they chose to make this point at the expense of the two junior bodies, rather than threaten the precarious peace between their six and older seniors.

They were praised, and rightly, for their foresight and firmness of purpose in promoting and carrying through the merger of the two junior bodies.

The one-to-one relation of the IAS to Acca, the Certified body, made that part of the business easier than for AIA, but all went through, though Acca chose to keep the name of IAS under its control in case of future mischief. There were few protest resignations and the problems were overcome. All seemed well: integration had been shown to



Tony Sainsbury says the second-tier concept is being revived

be feasible and acceptable. The situation was enhanced by the Scottish Institute becoming the fifth sponsoring body in 1996; it was only after thorough discussion that the Irish finally decided not to become the sixth. AAT was established, and flourished here and abroad.

Its members were found in a widening range of jobs in an

increasing number of countries; its qualification was the first junior one to be recognised by IFAC. Some students regarded it as a route to membership of a sponsoring body, and some senior bodies were more accommodating than others. I said more than once that I hadn't joined to be CO of a transit camp. But the membership

coalesced, and students continued to enrol: their numbers may yet reach that millennial hundred predicted by Mike Lickiss, as he then was, our founder president 20 years ago.

But how very sad it is to see such apparently sudden unilateral and reactionary behaviour on the part of a sponsoring body as the secession of the Acca, and its establishment of a new junior qualification. If the new CAT (Certified Accounting Technician) does not belong to a separate body, and holds only a secondary qualification of the Acca, then the old concept of a second tier is revived. Presumably a CAT cannot equate to a member of AAT.

A bold, deserving and successful innovation that has been well understood for nearly 20 years has been menaced in a quite extraordinary manner on unconvincing grounds. This is more than regrettable. I write less as the first secretary of the AAT than as a survivor of those who followed that enlightened presidential lead and signed the Men and Arts of a new body in which they all believed, jointly and severally, as well as on behalf of the bodies they all represented.

In particular I record with great and genuine regret the reversal by one of those bodies of one of the more statesmanlike steps with which it has been associated, and especially the way in which it chose to take that step.

□ Tony Sainsbury was the founder secretary of the AAT.

Reinventing the past for the present good

Every so often the great accountancy firms follow the business fashions of the day so assiduously that they find they have reinvented their old heartlands. In their passion for creating new services and better and better ways to satisfy their clients' every need, they discover that what they are offering is nothing new but simply the sort of stuff they never should have strayed from.

Take management consultancy. Once upon a time, the services offered had a simple motivation: The firm could provide a team of bright people with wide experience of under-standing how companies achieved both success and failure. It was a simple client service and it sprang from the basic belief that what accountancy firms were strongest at was providing advice and judgment.

Then the firms started looking at what the US market thrived upon, and looked at how Arthur Andersen, via the explosive growth of Andersen Consulting, was doing here. There was a difference. Put simply, US firms did not make major advances that were what the dominant lawyers did. Instead they installed systems. And very profitable work it was, and is, too.

So the UK followed suit. Consultants became systems installers, and as the technological possibilities for the scope and capabilities of systems expanded enormously, so the consultancies grew in profitability and reputation.

Global systems were installed for clients. The cost to a client of a system that would ensure that invoices were processed and analysed in an identical and linked way in Kuala Lumpur, Kano and Kalamazoo was astronomical. The accountancy firms were happy indeed.

But clients do persist in wanting advice as well as systems. And now the firms are in effect creating old-fashioned advisory systems. Price Waterhouse has just announced a "business regeneration" service. The firm describes this as "a fresh approach to rebuilding value in companies". The aim is to build up a unit of people with direct industry and business experience and then use them to develop and then implement what the firm calls a "value recovery plan" for lagging companies.

Initially they expect these to be subsidiaries of existing clients which need rather more than a simple gingering up. This is what the old consultancy firms used to do. The only difference is in the packaging of the service and the idea that the firm wishes to participate in the risk and

the rewards. Or to be more accurate they would like an equity stake. If things go badly, then they would lose their fees. If things go well then accountants would become as rich as directors and owners. It is not the sort of risk/reward deal that most company staff have. But accountants are never short of knowing where the financial advantages lie.

There is another reason for this type of new development. We appear to be at that point in the business cycle at which people start to believe that they can do anything and make a fortune out of it. In the past in the accountancy profession that has always meant mergers.

And true to form, the rumours, and the action, in the US is merger. There has been a strong rumour that Merrill Lynch thinks that buying a large accountancy practice would create an unstoppable force in the corporate finance world. And American Express has been buying up smaller firms in the belief that some sort of financial services synergy will come of it.



ROBERT BRUCE

Customs closes jobs loophole

THE EMPIRE strikes back. After years of seeing their brightest and best snatched up by the large accountancy firms, Customs' and Excise has decided it is about time to go on the recruiting offensive itself.

A lurid advertisement will appear in the specialist tax press depicting a rope coiled into loops. "Find them. Close them," says the advert

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

in best tough-old-copper style. The VATmen, weary of losing out to what they see as ludicrously artificial tax-avoidance schemes, want half a dozen skilled accountants to head up their push to be rather more effective at curbing the ingenious efforts of the large firms.

Motivation, with a salary range of £35,000 to £70,000, is expected to be more to do with

the morality of tax rather than with the wages of sin.

Watching game

EXPECT some attempts at client-swapping over the balcony railings this Sunday. Both Capers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse have hopes in the Mound stand at Lord's for this weekend's cricket international against Australia. Unfortunately

they are next door to each other. Senior finance directors will be encouraged to watch the cricket rather than listen to a neighbour's blatherings.

Style formula

MOTOR RACING could not have found a better finance director, David Wilson, the ebullient ex-Ernst & Young partner and, more recently, Ladbroke

finance director, has joined the board of Bernie Ecclestone's Formula One enterprise. A Strathairn, lad he still enjoys "a game of loiter" with his old mates on a Saturday morning. But it is his choice in ties that will endear him to the grand prix fraternity. They mostly feature lurid women and fast cars. During Ladbroke board meetings he used to have to keep his jacket closed. Now he will be able to indulge his own intimate unbuttoned style.

ROBERT BRUCE

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

Source: FT Information
 * Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return);
 † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; No significant data.
 # Periodic Charge deducted from capital; @ Exit
 Charge.



FILM 1
Crude, funny and brash, *Beavis and Butt-head* holds a crazy mirror up to middle America



FILM 2
... while *Love and Other Catastrophes* is a frisky and friendly portrait of campus life

THE TIMES ARTS



FILM 3
Authentic St Petersburg settings, but the new *Anna Karenina* never defrosts



FILM 4
... and *Jungle 2* rehashes a very whiskery plot to no great effect

CINEMA: If you can forget about good taste you might enjoy the exhilarating idiocy of Beavis and Butt-head, says Geoff Brown

What would Walt Disney make of Beavis and Butt-head, the teenage morons of TV animation, now let loose on the big screen? Disney approached the vulgar by accident: remember the way the bottoms of two Cupids form a heart shape in *Pan's Labyrinth*? But the stars of *Beavis and Butt-head Do America* only know crude thoughts and deeds. Adolescents puffing raging hormones, low IQs and the life experience of couch potatoes, they are obsessed with music videos, sexual innuendo, and scoring with "chicks". This is not the world Mickey Mouse knew.

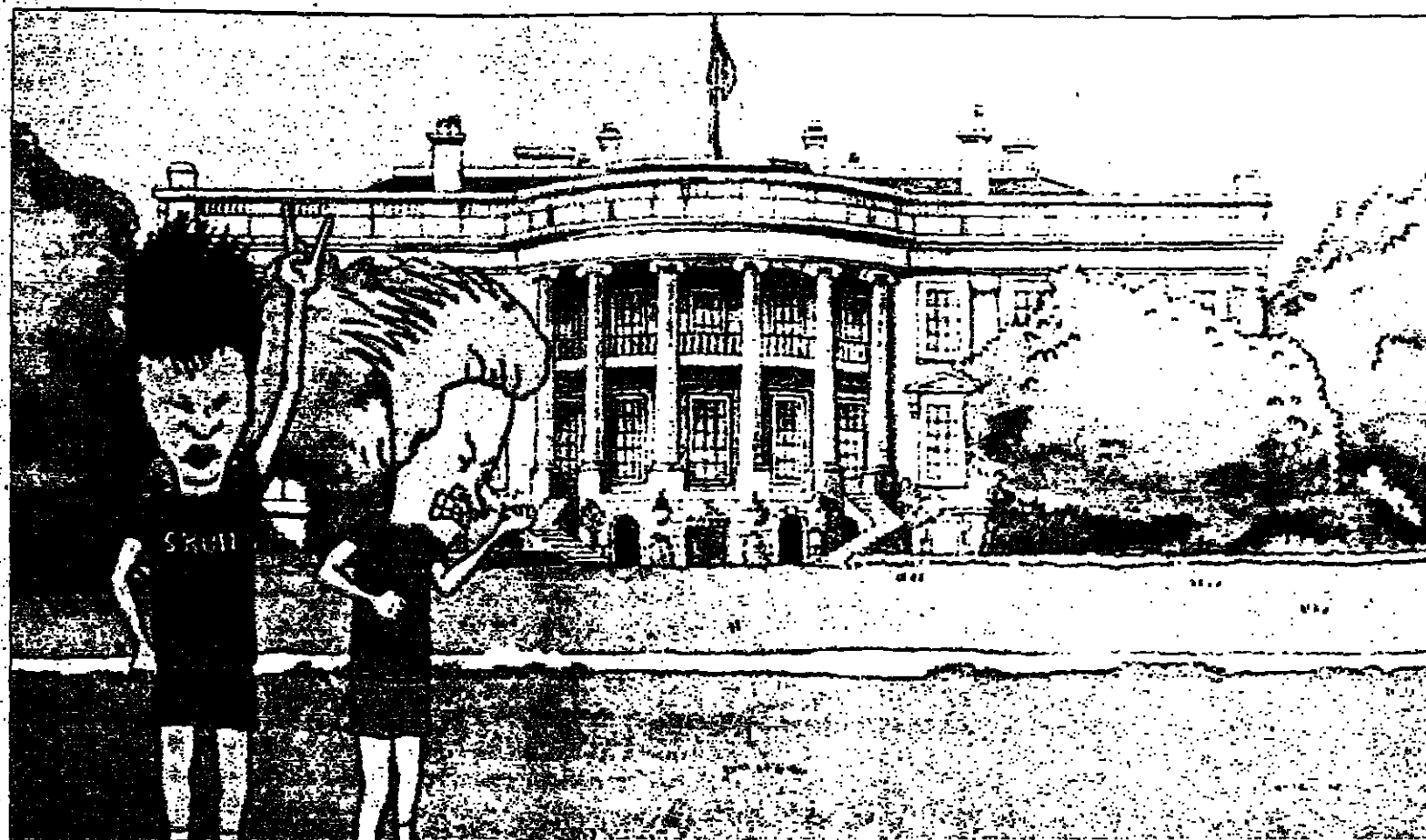
Nor does it look like it. In the grand days of Hollywood animation, efforts were made to paint the fantastic with panache, and give characters enough movement and weight to instill a living spirit. These clumps scarcely move their mouths as a funny plot gets them off their couch, travelling cross-country to Washington DC in search of sex with a redneck's wife. Everything is so crudely drawn that the film might actually be made by Beavis and Butt-head, not the characters' creator, Mike Judge, and a supporting army of artists. Even animation in 1915 had more grace and fluidity than this.

The lack of finesse is part of the film's two-fingered attitude, and its satire of the teenage mind. This is more a film to be heard than watched, like a dialogue-heavy TV sitcom. The audience at the screening I attended even sounded like a TV laugh track, roaring loudly but, briefly, pitched to the staccato script.

For fans of the TV series there is much to laugh at as the dunderheads mix with the Hoover Dam, nuns, and a container of a deadly virus (seen inside Beavis's pants). Nor will neophytes be wasting their time. Look beyond the crudities, and you peer into a crazy mirror reflecting the state of middle America. Not for nothing does Judge live in Austin, Texas, a sprawling ground of the director Richard Linklater. What are Beavis and Butt-head but dim-witted versions of the loafers and pop-culture obsessives who populate *Slacker*?

The desert is "stupid", one of them, says. "They need to put a drinking fountain here." They can barely read their own names. Toilets fascinate them, especially those where you activate the flush by a movement of hands ("the coolest thing I've ever seen"). "I think one reason people like to watch them," Judge says, "is because they say things that most people would never be stupid enough to let out of their mouths." Their idiocy is surprisingly exhilarating, but to be carried away you must forget about good taste and polished animation.

Youth has its fling, too, in *Love and Other Catastrophes*. But these are university students in Melbourne, bogged down in library fines, love, a search for the perfect room-mate, and a thesis on Doris Day: You don't need the



Black humour at the White House as cartoon teenage morons Beavis and Butt-head bridge the gap between television and cinema to "do America"

Hail the cool kings of crude

Beavis and Butt-head Do America
Empire, 12, 81 mins
TV morons reach the big screen

Love and Other Catastrophes
Metro, 15, 79 mins
Rejuvenating college romp from Australia

Anna Karenina
Odeon Haymarket, 15, 108 mins
Tolstoy turns trite

Jungle 2
Warner West End, PG, 105 mins
Predictable comedy

No Way Home
Virgin Haymarket, 18, 93 mins
Indie drama needs a blood transfusion

characters. There's a roommate to find for film students Mia and Alice. Mia (Frances O'Connor) also has the whopping library fine to pay. Meanwhile, Alice (Alice Garner) has her unfinished thesis. Other headaches include lesbian jealousy, sudden death, and Ari, a gigolo emboldened by his mother's advice, poor Sir Arnold Bax, to "try anything once, except incest and folk-dancing".

The cast, new faces all, prance through the events with ease. The pace is fast, and the film soon recovers from the odd rumble caused by Croghan's direction or kinks in the script. Too much of the product aimed at young audiences seems programmed by worn-out computers, but this freewheeling delight, the week's happiest film, comes straight from life.

The new *Anna Karenina* returns us to unreality. True, the St Petersburg settings are authentic, but it takes more than long tracking shots through ballrooms delirious with gilt to make a movie live and breathe. There must be compelling emotions, believable characters, images that do not appear plucked from a manual on how to be David Lean without the talent or money.

All these are absent. The director, Bernard Rose, showed proficiency with flashy horror movies, but his work has turned both ponderous and trite since he went up-market. As with his Beethoven biography *Immortal Beloved*, the film has that Euripidean taste. The language swings from English to subtitled Russian; accents lurch equally.

As Anna, Sophie Marceau does little to hide her French nationality, while Sean Bean eliminates charisma from Vronsky, the Count who captures the lonely wife's heart. If these two are in love, you never feel it. Only James Fox, as Karenin, makes a decent fist of his part, starting frostily, thawing slowly as his wife's affair unravels. A CD's worth of pop Russian classics on the soundtrack puts the lid on a film that never summons enough reasons to exist.

In 1994, a French comedy about a boy raised in the wilds of South America at large in Paris's urban jungle delighted local audiences. The Disney folk took note of *Un Indien dans la ville*, and the unappealing, unoriginal result is *Jungle 2*. The film, directed by John Pasquin, is a vehicle for rumpled TV comic Tim Allen, following his success in *The Santa Clause*.

The script keeps close to the original. Self-centred father, a commodities trader, discovers long-separated wife has brought up a son in the Amazon jungle. Son comes to New York with bow and arrow, loincloth and spider. Havoc follows. Son learns of city ways; father rediscovers humanity; audience falls asleep.

A little snooze is possible, too, during *No Way Home*, a low-budget, low-voltage feature from American independent hopeful Buddy Giovinazzo. Tim Roth — head shaved, accent massaged — plays a gentle ex-prisoner sheltering with his brother in Staten Island, and dragged into trouble against his will. Giovinazzo's script focuses on characters; performances are tautly controlled. But the film still seems undernourished, waiting to be kicked into life by some complication that never arrives. Boring title, too.

Feisty, sexist and funny

Every week, young film fans discuss some of the latest releases...

BEAVIS AND BUTT-HEAD

Tim Thornton, 21: A surprisingly entertaining film from the animated stars of MTV television. And two wonderful cameo performances from Bruce Willis and Demi Moore.

Damian Samuels, 19: This is really *Wayne's World* meets *The Simpsons* meets *Thelma and Louise*. An innuendo-filled romp that provided the odd laugh.

Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 18: Unlike the TV series, this was genuinely funny. Forget your expectations: sit back and enjoy.

Sarah Crook, 18: A feisty, sexist comedy which worked brilliantly.

Anna Karenina
Tim: A very tedious waste of celluloid.
Damian: The film tries to



imitate the atmosphere of *Dr Zhivago* — but fails by some way. Sean Bean and Sophie Marceau lack lustre in this lengthy, limp Len Tolstoy classic.

Leslie: *Anna Karenina*? More Anna cream-crackered! This was long and boring — so dull, in fact, that I actually fell asleep.

Sarah: An epic-looking movie but without a heart. Definitely one to avoid.

Jungle 2
Tim: An uninspiring *Crocodile Dundee* for the 1990s.

Damian: If you are looking for a laugh, you're in for a long wait in this half-hearted Disney comedy.

Leslie: A comedy without laughs? I think so. A painful way to spend a couple of hours.

Sarah: I utterly disagree. It was actually wild and roaringly funny!

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THEATRE

The visual splendour of the Romanian *Titus Andronicus* cannot hide the huge flaws in the play



MUSIC

Is Maurizio Pollini's heroic seven-city trawl through the Beethoven sonatas taking its toll?

THE TIMES ARTS

Talk

RADIO

Shorn of the shock jocks, Talk Radio has found a better class of presenter

TOMORROW

How the Albert Hall will be transformed by the world's biggest staging of *Swan Lake*

Curtains for Shakespeare's worst

What is one to do with this ludicrously bad play, and of forgetting about it for the rest of one's life and going through it as seldom as possible? Directors of suchness, including Peter Brook's celebrated 1966 production, try to turn it into something valuable by loading it with style. They go for Japanese minimalism or gilded magnificence or pile the stage with everything but the kitchen sink. Sometimes even the sink is included, along with the kitchen stove, where Titus can bake the pies containing the heads of Tamora's bad boys.

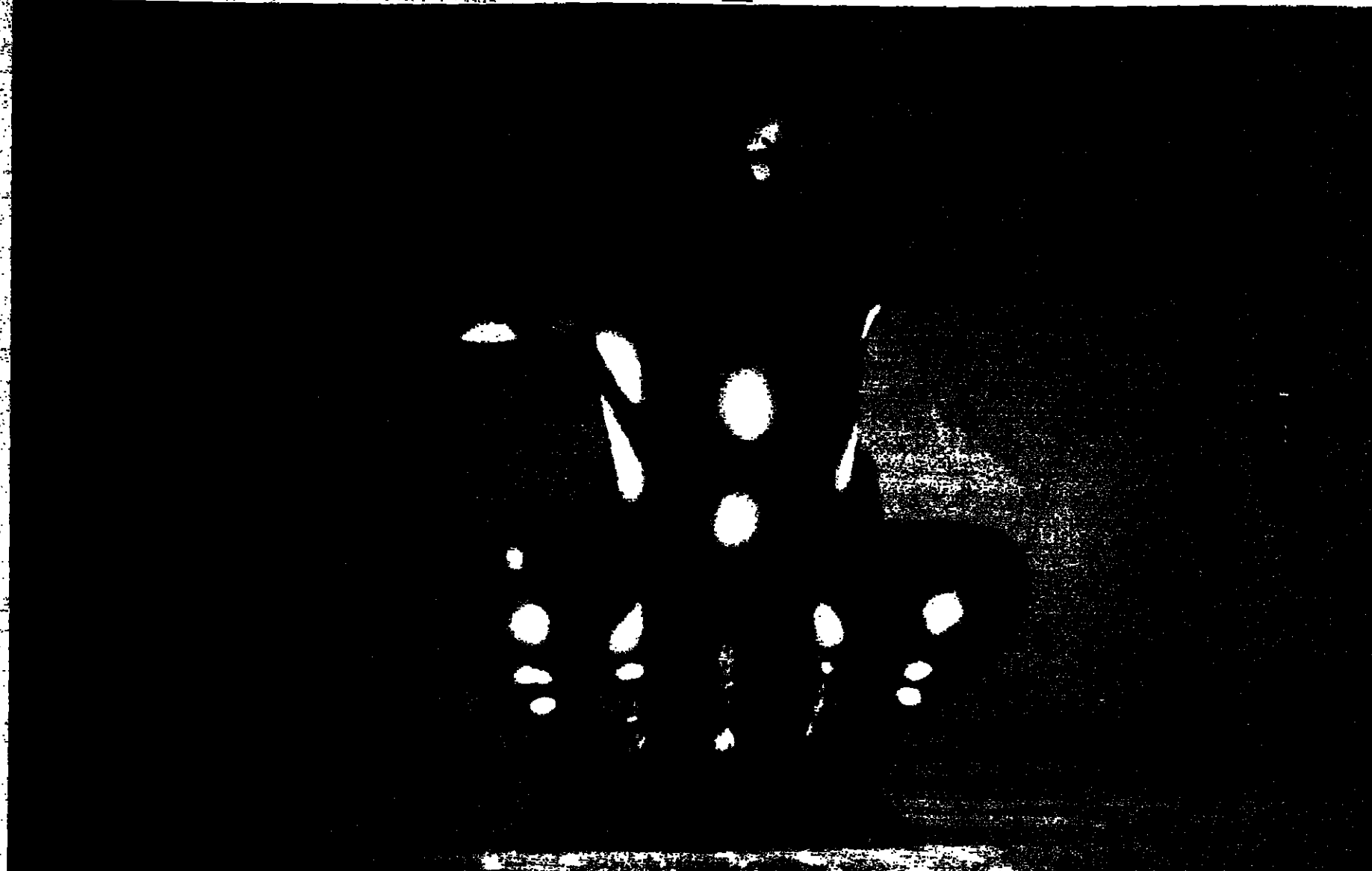
None of this does more than a moment's good. Marvellous visuals,

Titus Andronicus
Lyric, Hammersmith

yes, like those to be seen here in Silvia Purcarete's touring production (in Romanian), performed by the National Theatre of Craiova. But the result is what? If gilding the lily is held to be folly, with Titus you are gilding groundsel.

So how does Purcarete set about animating these two and a half hours of rhetorical rant, where beastly bloody butchery tips Titus's toning wits? He uses curtains a lot, a black and a white, sometimes turned by lighting to a gory scarlet or ironic mauve. A curtain descends in front of a group of characters, and when it is raised again, or has completely descended and lies in heaped folds on the stage, a new grouping is in place to take the action forward. This makes for a swiftly flowing succession of scenes in a play that darts about Rome from palace to private room, out to the Forum and away into the forest where devilish deeds are done around a putrid pit.

A falling curtain can also envelop a character who stands against it, and when it is lifted, lo! he has left the stage. Aaron, the Jewish Moor, holds his violin against the curtain and it remains there, five feet above the ground — held, of course, by someone on the other side. This is no



Light show: Ilie Gheorghe's Aaron is netted and pierced with a dozen spears in Silvia Purcarete's touring production (in Romanian), but there's a final sting in his tail

more than a visual joke but laughter dies next time when it is Lavinia who is invisibly held, and rape and tongue-ripping are to follow. Ozana Căpănea's sustained trembling after the atrocity is a powerful image. Purcarete comes up with many others. Tamora's two sons are played like identical, axe-wielding

Sumo wrestlers, bubbly pony-tailed boors who pad about the stage in unison, farcically malevolent. Ubu Roi's symbol of a whirling spiral, projected onto the curtain, hints at the target the director may be aiming for: Thugs Rule, and it's not OK. Ilie Gheorghe's Aaron is netted and pierced with a dozen

spears, like the White Queen's ball of knitting. Why does he not appear at the end to take his bow? Because he waits for us on the stairs outside, snarling yet.

In this early play Shakespeare's dramatic language is mostly dreadful yet jewels do occur, though I cannot say how many are preserved

in this ruthlessly cut version. Of Stefan Iordache's performance in the title role I can describe his appearance (grizzled, wearing a woolly cap like the top half of a sear-chin), his manner (grumpy, grunting with mad laughter) and behaviour (tipping Lavinia off the hospital bed so as to take her place).

Since I can say nothing of any subtleties of voice he may be employing, his interpretation comes across as lavish with externals but impoverished within. Not that Shakespeare gives him much to work with.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Sizzling Caribbean crowd-pleasers

JAZZ: Chris Parker picks out the highlights of a St Lucia festival that had something hot for everyone

Given the avowed aim of the sixth St Lucia Jazz Festival — "to broaden the variety of jazz offered to cater for all tastes" — the choice of New Orleans trumpeter Nicholas Payton as its opening concert-hall attraction was singularly felicitous. Equally at home with the strictly traditional music forever associated with his home town and the polished neo-classicism of his most celebrated leader, Wynton Marsalis, Payton exudes a passion to communicate in every note that rips, smears, growls or cascades from his instrument.

Sharing front-line duties with the lush, agile player Jesse Davis and the vigorously sparkling pianist Anthony Womsey, Payton delighted the audience without over-reliance either on virtuosic grandstanding or unadventurous adherence to the familiar. For those who like their jazz whip-smart, accessible and joyous, with solos that tell a story, Payton is hard to beat.

All tastes were even better catered for by bassist Christian McBride. His dramatically delayed stage entrance, not to mention an eye-catching cream-coloured suit, signalled his intention to spice up his prodigious bass-playing talents with more than a pinch of showmanship. Accordingly, after a couple of sizzling workouts of original acoustic material from his latest album, *Number Two Express*, he suddenly transformed his quartet into a rough approximation of Miles Davis's electric *Bitches Brew* band by strapping on a bass guitar and having pianist Charles Graham play keyboards.

The weekend saw activity transferred to the open-air Pigeon Island park. Hilton Ruiz and the Latin Jazz Ensemble kicked off proceedings here with a typically jaunty arrangement of Wayne Shorter's *Footprints*, in which — such is the easy versatility of such Latin-jazz stars as trombonist Steve Turre, flautist Dave Valentin and trumpeter Charlie Sepulveda, not to mention the pungent saxophone of Sonny Fortune — Latin rhythms and flowing jazz improvisation did not so much coexist as fuse naturally.



Carlos Santana: perfect closing performance

The ensemble's soloists were back the following day, their Latin jazz harnessed this time by local composer/saxophonist Luther Franco in an adventurous extended suite also involving the strings of Quartet Indigo, a soul-pan section and Trinidadian soca singer David Rudder. Although there was

some initial awkwardness, once the band settled into a groove, its great solo strengths asserted themselves. François himself proved to be a garrulous but always cogent tenor player, but at the heart of the band's success was again pianist Hilton Ruiz, consistently injecting just enough Latin rhythm into the mix to enliven it.

American trumpeter Chuck Mangione also ventured into Latin territory in his set, but failed to emulate Ruiz's elegant assurance in the process. Mangione never quite made his performance cohere, an accusation that could never be made about the festival's main attraction, Santana.

From a typically percussive-heavy band alongside keyboardist Chester Thompson and vocalist Tony Lindsay, Carlos Santana turned in the perfect festival-closing performance, his guitar alternately soaring and screaming over the chatter of timbales and congas or crooning softly over Benny Rivlin's propulsive bass. Marvin Gaye's *Right On* and a Bob Marley medley effortlessly won the crowd's devotion, and from then on the two-hour set became a feast of mutual admiration between performers and audience. Culminating in a blistering selection of vintage Santana fare — *Black Magic Woman*, *Guitarra* and many more — the music fused Latin and rock with a high degree of assurance.

For sheer visceral excitement, Santana were undoubtedly the highlight of this rich and varied festival; but its keynote was struck elsewhere, in the beautiful surroundings of Windjammer Landing. Shirley Horne, confiding her whispered love-pleas to a Caribbean night filled with the sounds of rustling palm leaves and whirling insects, summed up the festival ambience, irresistibly conjuring up St Lucia's slogan — simply beautiful.

ACCIDENTS happen. Most can be patched up with whatever size Bandaid is required. But when the Chernobyl nuclear power plant blew a hole through every safety net going 11 years ago, the wounds were more gaping than most. The fact that it happened in the former Soviet Union, a country set to explode in so many different directions, was an unfortunate irony.

Deep down in the bunker of the Traverse's smaller studio space, devoid of natural light, Catherine Czerkawska's sombre, hauntingly elegiac play — the first to be directed by the new Traverse artistic director, Philip Howard — looks at the human consequences of the disaster rather than blinding us with science. This is done via the living memories of Natalia, a young woman returning to the scene of the crime, depicted here as a theme park heaven hiding the hell within. There she meets Artemis, a stranger who opens the door to her pain.

Nuclear family

Wormwood
Traverse, Edinburgh

The stark, clinical light of the present is replaced by the rose-tinted glow of the past as the story unravels itself like a bandage. It's a story of Natalia's fiancé, Viktor, a scientist in the plant, turning a blind eye to abuse of safety codes. Of her sister, Tanya, haunted by apocalyptic dreams, and her husband, Stefan, a fireman. It's a story, too, of Anton, the face of the future.

All the while, Artemis prods and pokes Natalia with a mixture of the world-weary and the manic which only those that know the ugly truth are capable of. Seemingly judge, jury and conscience of the tomb-like place, Artemis is both cynical angel and louché devil. Or, if you prefer, plain old theatrical device to keep things bubbling along. Either way, the denouement, when it comes, symbolically signposts as it is, still leaves one

reeling, simply because you know it happened.

If this weren't the case, the whole thing could be dismissed as B-movie hokum, though whether this points towards a return to heart-on-sleeve worthiness in more general theatrical concerns remains to be seen. But, despite falling back at times on wet liberal soothsaying to make its point, this is no mere documentary scare-story.

Rather, it is a clean, briskly poetic piece of theatre, played out on Angela Davies's vast tiered floor, that's both laboratory and living room. Stripped bare of clutter, the production never loses sight of its own artifice, which in turn helps to stress the awful-

ness of it all as the dead sit waiting their turn like the ghosts of Christmas past.

While some performances are occasionally too muted to carry, Howard's careful, understated approach works wonders without ever resorting to bluster, bombast or big bangs for effect as momentum gathers and scenes overlap. There are brave performances from both Liam Brennan and Anne Marie Timoney, the latter looking so heart-breakingly haunted as to make one weep, while Meg Fraser's Natalia is an appealing mix of timidity and resilience as she meets both maker and destroyer.

Yet it's a swarthy Forbes Masson who runs the show as Artemis, a warped conjuror pointing the finger and bleeding the truth out of people like poison as he painstakingly peels back the layers. Illusion, of course, doesn't last. Only dead flowers, like the ones here, do that.

NEIL COOPER

RECITAL: Hilary Finch finds flaws creeping into an epic Beethoven cycle

Seldom has a sonata cycle had so much greatness thrust upon it. Maurizio Pollini's Beethoven was the musical event of London's cultural year before it had even begun. Each of the seven recitals is preceded by a worthy talk, on subjects such as *The Progress of a Method* and *Late Beethoven as a Metaphor*. And last weekend, to precede the penultimate recital, heavyweights such as Charles Rosen and George Steiner assembled for *The Beethoven Forum*.

And then, on Tuesday, came the vast, still centre of the *Hammerklavier* Sonata, reducing all notions, all arguments, all words to their properly subordinate and diminutive stature. Pollini did not even need to linger overlong: from the beautifully placed and balanced opening chords through to the exploration inward from that first high shaft of light, Pollini seemed to be amassing a new strength from deep inside the work, the listener finding in turn a sense of cumulative renewal.

Pollini had needed that strength. Despite all that has been written about and invested in these recitals, the playing has not been consistently great, and only ears pre-tuned by expectation or preconception could have heard otherwise. Tuesday's recital revealed a hint of sheer wear-

Fatigued fingers

Maurizio Pollini
Festival Hall

ness in the second movement of the Op 90 Sonata. Both within Pollini's wonderfully veiled underones for Beethoven's dreaming song, and in the slow, yearning movement of the Op 101 Sonata, there was an acute sense of the performer longing to retreat while from projection, and from public scrutiny, and to renew his own responses. Who would not feel so after performing the entire cycle in seven European and American cities, three of them already during this season?

In purely technical terms, this weariness of spirit revealed itself in moments when rhythmic definition and contrapuntal shaping appeared in constantly low relief. Phrasing and structure would become uncharacteristically blurred; taut, crisp fingerwork would fail to go further and propel a movement's inner energies. The implied synecdoche within the *Vivace alla Marcia* of the Op 101 was somewhat flattened out, and the opening movement of the *Hammerklavier* seemed a struggle, albeit a thrilling one, in which the entire body was straining

in its effort to scale even the foothills of this great work.

There was on Tuesday, it almost goes without saying, so much of true beauty, of gentle revelation, and of the clear-sighted vision which belong

uniquely to Pollini's playing. But the physical journey may well be eroding the musical one: Beethoven's world must always remain so much larger than our own.

The choir in last week's Philip Glass concert (reviewed Tuesday) was the Crouch End Festival Chorus

Worth talking about

When Talk Radio was launched (as Talk Radio UK) the station misjudged the market. The American idea of shock jocks, which in Talk's version seemed to involve presenters insulting listeners, did not play well among the British, who prefer to go for a drive if they wish to be shouted at.

Within a few months of Talk going on air in February 1995 there were predictions of an early demise. But now, after at least two facelifts, there is every indication that Talk is here to stay. And Talk deserves to stay, for it is a vastly improved network which has had the courage to face its failings and correct them.

Radio audience figures are notoriously difficult to read, for they are measured in

RADIO

weekly reach, which means the number of people who listen in a given week. Talk's reach for the first quarter of this year was 1.8 million but January-March figures rarely flatter radio stations, and estimates of a 2.3 million average may not be overly optimistic.

Talk Radio dumped the shock jocks after six months but then switched to a policy which was no more productive. It brought in star names such as Simon Bates and Trevor McDonald, but further research suggested that the audience did not want personality presenters but presenters with personality. So there was another shift in the middle of last year.

This Sunday Anna Raeburn returns to the station. She will do a Sunday afternoon programme and an evening show (Monday-Thursday) but this is not a shift back to star presenters, rather a recognition that a network based on phone-ins needs an agony aunt.

Raeburn is being paid more than £30,000 a year so she will not need to ring herself up asking how to make ends meet. But there is plenty of money in commercial radio; indeed, Raeburn went to Liberty FM last year for twice what Talk will now pay her to come back.

One of Talk's makeover achievements has been to get the right shows with the right presenters at the right time of day. Lorraine Kelly at lunchtime and Peter Dinkley, the former LBC presenter, in the late-afternoon drivetime slot give Talk a combination of liveliness and professionalism, qualities which are also abundant in the three-hour morning slot from 9am.

This is hosted by Scott Chisholm, the former Sky TV presenter. Chisholm is an excellent phone-in host, mainly because he understands the issues in the news and therefore understands when callers are talking rubbish.

There is anecdotal evidence that quality presenters serve to improve the quality of the audience, implying a diminished amount of rubbish talked. I remain highly sceptical of phone-ins as a measure of the national mood, but there are moments in Chisholm's programme when one gets a sense of a nation genuinely talking to itself. That can only be good.

PETER BARNARD

TIM ROTH
JAMES RUSSO
DEBORAH KARA UNGER

A classy cast... A striking debut

NO WAY HOME

STARTS TOMORROW VIRGIN HAYMARKET & CHELSEA • ODEON KENSINGTON AND SELECTED CINEMAS NATIONWIDE CHECK LOCAL PRESS

How to have more fun in the oven

Alastair Little plans to carry his roasts to Rose and Ruth's place

I must confess to extreme jealousy with regard to Rose Gray and Ruth Rogers. I'm jealous of their restaurant, with its beautiful dining room, I'm jealous of their first cookbook and most of all I'm jealous of their woodburning oven.

Fitting one of these in either of my restaurants is technically difficult and prohibitively expensive — a dream I will never realise. So what do they go and do next? Publish a new book extolling the oven's virtues. Maldon salt is rubbed in my wounds by whole sections of this book, recipes for wood-roasted vegetables, wood-roasted lobster and squid — for so long a standard of the River Café and always grilling.

Wood burning ovens are a bit hard to find in West London, or anywhere else for that matter, except central Italy. You can buy a small but perfect one from Books for Cooks, a snip at £1,500. Rose and Ruth assert that comparable results can be achieved in a normal domestic oven and this may be so — but they could have supplied us with more instruction as to the precise techniques required.

Tradition has it that peasant Italians in days gone by would take their assembled roasts and dishes to the local baker's, who would cook them in his oven as it cooled down after he had finished baking his bread. Perhaps we could triumphantly bear the wonderful dishes from this cookbook to Ham-mersmith to be cooked in the River Café oven.

Apart from this slight problem, this book is much more interesting and innovative than their first one. Rose and

Ruth have progressed enormously as cooks, the River Café improving from a hesitant start as a canteen to take its place among the great restaurants of the world. They now seem to be doing the same with their books, communicating the gospel to a very large public. This is not a chatty or folkloric cookbook. It is a simple collection of recipes. It is not a particularly practical book but it is an inspirational one. Here are some of the things that inspired me:

The entire section on soups is outstanding, particularly the fresh broad bean minestrone. These women understand what soups are all about, or at least we agree in our choices. The bread section is equally good: there is a simple recipe for sour dough bread — in the

THE RIVER CAFE COOKBOOK II
By Rose Gray and Ruth Rogers
Ebury Press, £25
ISBN 0 09 185170 X

past I've been put off by complicated and lengthy recipes for this culinary icon. No more. I'm going to have a go. There is a recipe for slow-cook shoulder of pork, with the most

wonderfully imprecise cooking times, "from 8-24 hours", that sounds astonishing. The fried prawns specified the use of Foote Shrimps — one of my fishermen's comes from Foote and he is about to get a real nagging to find me some.

For me, the best recipe, and photo, is salt cod with chick-peas. This traditional olive-harvest dish is one I've been mucking about with for several years and I've even gone into print with two recipes, but the River Café version blows all my attempts clear out of the water. Their version was on my Frith Street restaurant menu as fast as I could get the chick peas soaked and the cod desalinated. My test of a good cookbook is one containing one recipe I can steal and absorb into my repertoire: this book presents me with many, many more temptations.



What a dish: wood-roasted turbot tranché with capers

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THE TIMES
TOKEN 10
CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الامم

Jeanette Winterson enjoys a portrait of an artist at the heart of Bloomsbury and the century



Duncan Grant, photographed in 1975 in the studio of his home at Charleston in Sussex — first rented by Vanessa Bell when the two began working together in 1916

On first-name terms

DUNCAN GRANT
By Frances Spalding
Chatto & Windus, £25
ISBN 0 7011 3409 7

Duncan Grant was born in 1885. Ruskin was still alive and Queen Victoria would reign for a further 16 years. In 1978, the year that Duncan Grant died, Margaret Thatcher had begun her campaign for Downing Street.

There is a fascination about lives that belong to the century. This biography of a painter is also a picture of a changing world.

We begin with the genteel but impoverished birth at the Clan Grant home near Aviemore, followed by a childhood stint in India, and then lodgings in 1902 at the Strachey household in London. The Stracheys were cousins of the Grants, but their highly charged intellectual boldness was unlike anything Duncan had experienced before. Freed from a Presbyterian stiffness, Duncan could pay attention to the two things that interested him most: art and sex.

He became Lytton Strachey's lover. He went to Paris, then studied for a while at the Slade. Through Strachey he met Maynard Keynes and became his lover. Perhaps most important of all, for Duncan Grant's

painting and for the rest of his life, he received this note in 1909:

"Dear Duncan, may I call you so, and will you call me Vanessa?"

It was the beginning of Bloomsbury. Virginia Stephen was in Fitzroy Square, her sister Vanessa, now married to Clive Bell, was in Gordon Square. The familiar names were gathering — Roger Fry, Keynes, Lytton, Leonard Woolf. Duncan Grant found himself inevitably part of what can be described as the 20th-century art storm or sometimes its tepid.

In 1910, Roger Fry and Clive Bell changed the way we look at pictures. Coining the term Post-Impressionist, Fry mounted an exhibition of paintings by Manet, Gauguin, Cézanne, Matisse and others which outraged the gallery-going public. Fry was dubbed an anarchist and the exhibition itself was variously linked to

women's suffrage and the miners' uprising. It was reviewed with hostility as a threat to tradition, order, King and Empire. Those who sneer at Bloomsbury as a drawing room movement should not underestimate the potency of its message. This was a new beginning. For Duncan Grant it was a brand new way of painting. No longer was likeness to the object the test. The test was emotional coherence and significant form. "Efficiency," thundered *The Times*.

The creative working partnership between Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell was to last throughout their lives. They undertook joint commissions and often painted together in the studio at Charleston in Sussex. Vanessa rented Charleston in 1916 and Duncan was still living there when he died. The Bells had an open marriage, so Vanessa falling in love with Duncan was not a difficulty. His homosexuality was, Duncan loved Vanessa and he quite enjoyed bedding her, but she could never occupy the central space of yearning that belonged to his young men. Tensions were obvious and it was Vanessa, not Duncan, who always

held it together somehow. In Bloomsbury fashion, their daughter Angelica married Bunny Caygnet, a man old enough to be her father, who had been her father's lover.

And yet... growing out of the human muddle is the work. I have a little line drawing by Duncan Grant of Vanessa breast-feeding Angelica. Its tenderness fulfils the moment and carries beyond the moment into the mythic space of Mother and Child.

Critical and commercial evaluations of Duncan Grant's work fluctuated during his long life and have not steadied yet. Frances Spalding is an art historian who understands dealerships, and part of the interest of this excellent biography is how well the reader begins to realise what it means to earn a living as a painter for more than 70 years. From the Omega workshops to the grand ambitions of the young Anthony D'Offay, Bloomsbury to Bond Street, this is a picture not only of how an artist paints but how he actually manages to survive.

Duncan Grant was charming and

he was good-looking. These things help. What helped him most, and this is part of the luck even his enemies remarked upon, was his friendship with some of the best thinkers and shapers of this century. Grant was not an epoch maker like Picasso, nor was he a statement for his generation like Hockney. He was a conduit or channel through which much could flow without snagging. Not a thinker himself, he profited from the self-consciousness of Post-Impressionism, and Modernism. The terrific intellectual energy around him, with its European rather than Little Englander bias, perhaps saved him from becoming too much the pretty boy pretty painter.

He had his own virtues, too. He did not care about money or fame or fashion. He was loyal and sincere.

It is a pleasure to read a biography that is honest without being scandalous, that reveals all without indecent exposure. The achievement is to bring out the quiet genius of the man. By that I mean the spirit peculiar to himself that Duncan Grant transformed into a common whole.

Teasing out the mystery of love

IN 1950, Mavis Gallant left her native Montreal for Paris and launched her career as a fiction writer. She published, from the first, in the august literary pages of *The New Yorker* and all but three of the pieces in *The Selected Stories* originally appeared there. If there is such a thing as a New Yorker short story, it is hers.

Finally, after almost half a century, Gallant has gathered in a single volume much of her finest work. To accompany this rich treasure, the author has furnished a fascinating introduction which elucidates not only her criteria for selection but also a history of her engagement with story-telling.

Claire Messud

SELECTED STORIES OF MAVIS GALLANT
Bloomsbury, £25
ISBN 0 7475 3251 6

"The first flash of fiction arrives without words. It consists of a fixed image, like a slide or a still, a freeze frame, showing characters in a simple situation."

From these images, Gallant weaves entire lives, evoking her creations in their fullest complexity. Her eye is consistently cool, her gaze sophisticated and rapier sharp. Many of the stories are suffused with the dark light of satire and could seem brutal were it not for the grace of the prose itself. Gallant's protagonists may falter, they may fall each other and themselves, but the sentences through which they are born linger, luminous and transcendent.

In *Baum, Gabriel* (1938), Gabriel's uncle encourages "his nephew to take a strong, positive line with his life and above all to get out of Paris, which had never amounted to more than an emigré way station. Its moral climate invited apathy and not... Uncle

August's view may be extreme, but in Gallant's oeuvre, most cities are home to the displaced and the disillusioned. Few of Gallant's people are "at home," in the stories: none are at home with themselves; they seek it, whatever it might be, in love. In an early work, *The Other Paris*, a young American woman hunts grim, postwar Paris in vain for the city of romance about which she has read and heard sung: she finds only "shabby girls bundled into raincoats, hurrying along in the rain, or men who needed a haircut." Was it possible that these badly groomed girls liked living in Paris? Carol wonders. "Were many of them in love, or — still less likely — could any man be in love with any of them?" To avoid answering "yes" and relinquishing her dream, Carol redefines the emotion and embarks — cheerfully and successfully — on a loveless marriage.

Gallant's characters frequently see clearly and prefer their illusions. Many have been forced to lead lives they would not have chosen; and yet, given the chance to escape, they embrace it. Gallant asks, again and again, what love might be. As she has written elsewhere: "The mystery of what a couple is, exactly, is almost the only true mystery still left to us, and when we have come to the end of it, there will be no more need for literature — or for love, for that matter." In the meantime, Gallant offers her answers to that mystery: her extremely fine stories, endlessly various and engrossing.

SOE stands for Special Operations Executive. It was formed in 1940 out of various strands of military intelligence, placed under the Ministry for Economic Warfare, and charged by Churchill with the task of "setting Europe aflame" — Europe under Hitler's occupation, and against its occupiers, that is. Its original task was based on a fallacy and desperation. The fallacy was that out of anti-Nazi passion and the techniques of guerrilla warfare an army would emerge capable of so combating German occupation that, and here the desperation emerged, the limited manpower resources of Britain and the Commonwealth could reinstate Europe and defeat a weakened Germany.

In practice SOE turned into an arm for sabotage and the encouragement of the resistance in Western Europe and into a support by advice, example and arms supplies to the guerrilla fighters and partisans of Eastern Europe. SOE was, by British standards, an entirely new kind of organisation for making war and gathering necessary military intelligence. As such it not only competed for Britain's limited resources for making war (and found itself low in the queue), it also required comparatively large numbers of men and women with rare qualities and skills. Forster Frederick Edward Yeo-Thomas, subject of Mark Seaman's *Bravest of the Brave* (Michael O'Mara Books, £17.99, ISBN 1 85479 650 X) and Sir Peter Wilkinson in his *Foreign Fields: The Story of an SOE Operative* (IB Tauris, £24.95, ISBN 1 85042 205 5) provide us with excellent examples of the various types on which Britain could draw.

Yeo-Thomas, the son of an expatriate Welsh family, was brought up and educated in France. During the 1914-18 war, barred by his father from enlisting in either the French or British Armies, he managed to enroll in the United States Army, finding himself

No room for Eurosceptics

caught up in the Polish war against the Soviet Union, escaping from Soviet captivity and ending up in 1932 as general manager of the fashion house, Molyneux.

Sir Peter, born in India, the son of a regular army officer, killed in Flanders when he was only ten months old, was educated at Rugby, at a lycée in Alexandria, where his stepfather worked, on holidays in Europe, and at Cambridge. He joined the Royal Fusiliers as a regular soldier in 1935. Qualifications as an interpreter in French and German led

him into military intelligence. Linguistic skill led him to Czechoslovakia, to learn Czech, after Munich. Leaving Prague in March 1939 as Hitler marched in, he fell in with Colonel Gubbins, who was already "preaching the need to study guerrilla warfare in June 1939. His introduction to the Second World War was to accompany Gubbins as part of the British military mission to Poland in September.

It is at this point that Mark Seaman, of the Imperial War Museum, and Sir Peter must

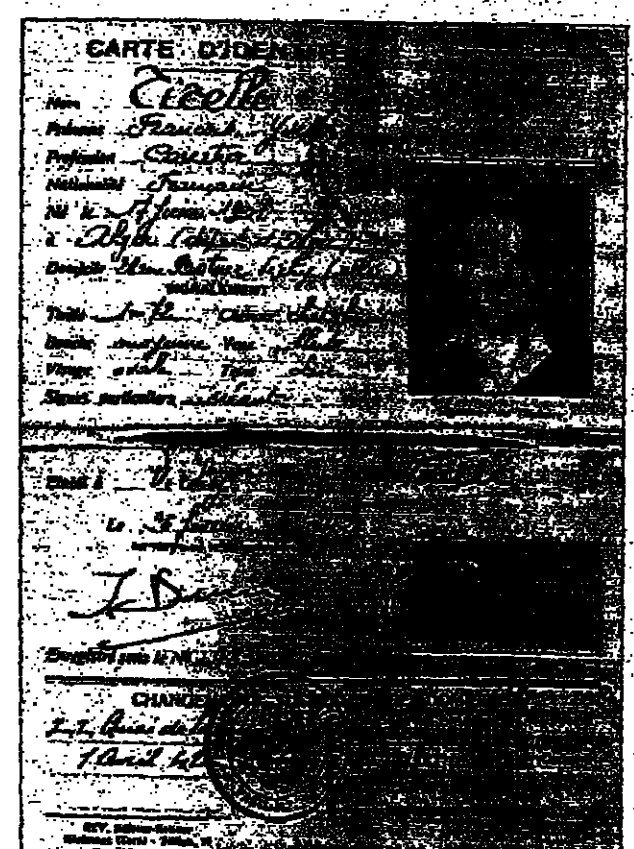
take over. Both books make compulsive reading. Yeo-

Thomas acted for SOE in France, fell eventually into German hands, survived a series of German concentration camps, and escaped to be liberated by the US Army in April 1945. Sir Peter took part in the foundation of SOE and played his part in the Whitehall war which raged quite as bitterly as that which SOE encountered at German hands. He also saw service in Crete, and went on a mission to Tito, penetrating as far as the border of Austria (without encountering any genuine anti-Nazi organisation among the Austrians).

In this, he confirmed the general suspicion of British intelligence towards effective anti-Naziism in Germany and Austria — a mite unfairly, perhaps, in view of the success of the plotters of July 20, 1944, in taking over Vienna, and the activities of the Austrian Communist miners of upper Styria in the early months of 1945. He was, moreover, approaching the most nationalist of Austria's frontiers with encroaching Slavdom: or so the Carinthians and South Styrians for centuries had seen things.

Yeo-Thomas is no longer with us. Sir Peter is no longer the young man he was. Could Britain produce the combination of cultural permeability, of staying fearlessly British while liking and understanding Europeans, as well as the strategic and tactical judgment and the courage and inability to contemplate defeat of the generations they represent? Regarding the tactical skill of today's Eurosceptics, rallying like Harold's Saxons in 1066 behind a shield wall as soon as a foreigner approaches (and we all know what happened to Harold in the end), one can be forgiven for having a few misgivings on the subject.

DONALD CAMERON WATT



The secret agent: Yeo-Thomas's false identification papers

Trying to recognise the symptoms of dis-ease

Peter Ackroyd on the ills — imaginary, or not? — that bedevil our psychoanalytic age

Interesting news travels fast. Within a relatively short space of time, anorexia nervosa, a condition affecting a few unhappy individuals and instead, according to Elaine Showalter, "acquired a social life". It is now an "epidemic", and, after prominent newspaper reports, men began to suffer from it as well. It was the psychological equivalent of the 19th-century "epidemic" of hysteria, which was also a condition affecting a few unhappy individuals and instead, according to Elaine Showalter, "acquired a social life". It is now an "epidemic", and, after prominent newspaper reports, men began to suffer from it as well. It was the psychological equivalent of the 19th-century "epidemic" of hysteria, which was also a condition affecting a few unhappy individuals and instead, according to Elaine Showalter, "acquired a social life".

HYSTORIES
Hysterical Epidemics and Modern Culture
By Elaine Showalter
Picador, £16.99
ISBN 0 330 34670 9

ed to women, although the history of the early Christian saints suggests that it is also one of the prerogatives of the male. The belle époque of the condition, according to Showalter, was somewhat later. Near the end of the 19th century, Jean-Martin Charcot coached hysterical women into taking up ritualised poses in the lecture room of his Parisian seminar. His influence extended to the stage and screen as well, with his theories magnificently represented by Hedda Gabler and Norma Desmond; it is only a short step from the hysteric to the histrionic. But if Charcot can be hailed as an inventor of modern hysteria, another great artist and mythologist, Sigmund Freud, must share the palm with his marketing of the famous "talking cure". Showalter,

in fact, concludes that his patients' memories of abuse — or what he termed "premature sexual experience" — were suggested or manufactured by Freud himself. In a conclusion which might be extended to the whole discipline of "objective" medical science, she suggests that "Freud pressed his patients to produce narratives congruent with his theories." There are now critics who even consider the master of psycho-analysis to have been, essentially, the last of the great Victorian novelists.

But the problem is larger than that contained within the vision of one man, or the ethos of one period. The central theme of this book lies in the self-evident fact that the late 20th century is still a "psychoanalytic age", which is precisely why various hysterical symptoms have become so popular and so



Anorexia nervosa: real sickness or popular delusion?

contagious. The examples of bulimia and anorexia are well known, but Showalter enters more forbidding territory in her account of "chronic fatigue syndrome" and "Gulf War syndrome": there are so many interested, not to say partisan, groups concerned with these matters that it is almost impossible to speak sensibly without being accused of prejudice. But Showalter displays an admirable ability to

dispel the cloudy theories and no less nebulous accusations which have bedevilled a proper understanding of these illnesses.

She emphasises that it does not matter whether the conditions are viral or psychological in origin: what is important to understand is the nature of ill health itself. Those who insist that illness must be physiological neglect the fact that for thousands of years people have become sick because their mental and emotional resources are depleted: in turn Showalter plots "the conversion of strong emotion into physical symptoms."

It is the merest common sense, and to demand that all sickness should have a material rather than a spiritual or psychological basis is to fall victim to the most absurd form of scientific determinism. This

is not to deny or minimise the suffering of those involved, but the great healers of the world have always been ready to treat the person as a whole rather than as the sum of disparate parts. It is important to read Paracelsus as well as Gray's Anatomy.

Showalter suggests that "chronic fatigue syndrome", for example, is closely related to the epidemics of "neurasthenia" in the 19th century; the belief that there is a mysterious virus, known as "Agent X", which is creating the more recent condition is a textbook example of the hysteria created by the collusion of doctor and patient.

Showalter suggests that 90 per cent of those suffering from "CFS" are white, and that 70 per cent are female. It is, in other words, a highly selective disease.

The fact that it may be psychological in origin does not mean that the symptoms are not authentic and severe. Showalter has a quotation from another doctor who puts the problem in its true perspective. "There are people," he writes, "who have not yet learned to regard psychiatric disease as a proper

illness. They are still seeing it as a moral weakness." There, if anywhere, is the heart of the matter.

The history of "Gulf War syndrome" is instructive in this respect. The symptoms of this condition have remained diverse and inexplicable, ranging from migraine and pelvic disease to ovarian cysts and burning semen. Showalter suggests, therefore, that there is no one identifiable cause but rather a series of traumatic stress disorders not dissimilar in nature to the "shell shock" induced by an earlier war. She is also unconvinced by the various conspiracy theories which have been manufactured by journalists and other interested parties. The vogue for "recovered memory", and the fashion for discovering child abuse everywhere, are also analysed with care as well as pity.

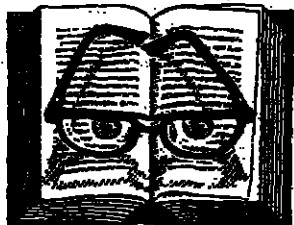
In that sense *Hystories* is allied to various other studies of millennial fantasy which have surfaced in recent months, principal among them Damian Thomson's *The End of Time* and Harold Bloom's *Omens of Millennium*. Showalter joins their company in demonstrating that an exciting brew of apocalyptic paranoia, pseudo-science and jargon psychology may not be the best medicine.

Cancel all the prizes

SO the judges of literary prizes don't read all the books, as the NCR panel have sheepishly confessed. As a schump of a reviewer once said, "reading the book prejudices one so". One of the NCR panel allegedly estimated that of the 122 entries, the five judges had between them read perhaps 25 of the preferred books — preferred, it seems, on the basis of delegated reading, friends' comments, reviews and gossip.

Clearly this is a system in need of reform, and like reforms in government and political parties, it must be democratic. It is a disgrace for a small caucus of individuals, answerable to no one but themselves, to wield such power. Their views may be completely unrepresentative, particularly since some of them are so-called intellectuals, out of touch with popular feeling. After all, it is the public who is being asked to buy the books.

How can the judges possibly have any claim to authority when they have not been elected by a universal franchise and cannot be dismissed? They are mere appointees, and some admit to having outside interests. Some judges of literary prizes are actually literary critics; surely



BIBLIOMANE

a flagrant professional conflict.

We must abolish this literary elitism, with its privilege, expertise, wisdom — the disgraceful tyranny of knowledge. Just because some of the judges may have read books before, are we to suppose that they read better than other people? There is no excuse for an archaic system that tells us the man in *Waterstone's* knows best. If a prizewinner is to feel secure, he needs to know that his victory is the result of a proper one-reader-one-vote poll.

Fortunately, the new Government is acting quickly with its proposed Bill of Rights. While enshrining the "right to freedom of thought" (thank you), this will outlaw all forms of discrimination. As a result, all these offensively judgmental prizes should be illegal. From now on, all books are equal.

LAST year Giles de la Mare, a longstanding director of Fabers, published under his own imprint the first of two volumes of his grandfather's collected stories. Now, with the backing of Professor John Bayley, Russell Hoban and others, he is launching the *Walter de la Mare Society* (0171 724 2399). The second volume of short stories, again in handsome Queen Square dress, is due in September.

JIM MCCUE

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The results of reefer run amok

Scott Bradfield

INVISIBLE REPUBLIC
Bob Dylan's Basement Tapes
By Greil Marcus
Picador, £16.99
ISBN 0 330 33623 1

In the summer of 1967, Bob Dylan descended into the basement of a rented house in West Saugerties, New York, seeking an uncluttered work space in which to hammer out some new tunes. Until then known as either a protest-style folk singer or an electric rock and roller, Dylan had grown tired of conventional categories, and wanted to let his music just happen. With the help of The Hawks, a Toronto-based honky-tonk group who eventually became known simply as The Band, Dylan spontaneously produced dozens of very weird songs such as *Evening Time*, *A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall*, *Just Like a Medicine*, *Mr. Tambourine Man*, *On a Rainy Day*, *Forever Young*, *Isis*, *Just Like a Woman*, *One of Those Afternoons*, *Not a Day Goes By*, *Don't Think Twice, It's All Right*, *From a Basement on the Hill*, *Forever Young*, *Isis*, *Just Like a Woman*, *One of Those Afternoons*, *Not a Day Goes By*, *Don't Think Twice, It's All Right*, *From a Basement on the Hill*.

Various bootleg versions of the Basement Tapes subsequently made their way into public domain, and soon became synonymous with the free-wheeling Sixties. This is because, compared to conventional studio albums, they weren't slick and over-engineered; they weren't sold in big bins through corporate-owned commercial outlets; and no matter how many times you listened to them, they didn't make any sense. Unless, of course, the following type of lyric sets your analytical juices flowing: "I'm starting to dream my school's



"I took my potatoes/ Down to be mashed/ Then I made it on over/ To that million dollar bash..." Bob Dylan photographed by Linda McCartney in the late Sixties

going to squeak/ If I walk too much further my crane's going to leak/ Look, Mrs Henry, there's only so much I can do/ Why don't you look my way and pump me a few?"

At a time when elaborate production values were making music look like something you couldn't do without lots of money, Dylan seemed to be

telling people to just go downstairs with a few friends and stop wondering whether anybody ever hears what you're doing. Music isn't a recording contract or a Grammy category, he implied. Just a series of sounds that won't happen the same way twice.

Greil Marcus is often mislabeled a "rock critic," but he's

actually a social historian. In previous books, such as *Mystery Train* and *Lipstick Traces*, he investigated the secret assumption of popular culture. In this new one, he reads through some of Dylan's most eccentric music and makes historical sense of songs that deliberately don't make much sense of themselves. Marcus

argues that as Dylan's music got weirder, it tapped into the mainstream of traditional American folk singing, such as that practised by the likes of Rabbit Brown, Clarence Ashley and Dock Boggs. In other words, traditional folk music doesn't have to be about rallying the miners, or ending slavery, or correcting social

injustices. Like the Basement Tapes, it can blaze its own fugitive trail into the darkness and doesn't have to be about anything but itself.

Marcus can be a bit of a prima donna at times, and his endless descriptions of some tunes may wear a reader down. But overall, this smart, well written book brings

Dylan out of his basement workshop and then allows him to sneak back down again. Which is great news for those feverishly anticipating the yet-to-be recorded single, *Even If It's A Pig Part III*.

Scott Bradfield's novel, *Animal Planet*, is published by Picador, priced £6.99.

Waterworld

Rachel Campbell-Johnston

THE DROWNER
Robert Drewe
Granta, £9.99
ISBN 1 86207 064 4

FEVERISH sailors of tropical seas succumb to an enticing fear, a delirium known as *calenture*. Starting out, day after day over the hot sparkle of the sea, they imagine the green oceans to be fresh fields of grass and are lured by a giddy desire to leap in. Readers of Robert Drewe's *The Drowner* will empathise. This is a novel which beguiles with water.

The tale begins in the lush water-meadows of the River Avon where Alphabetic Dance teaches his young son, William, the ancient and intricate art of the drowners: men who can make "land float", make "meadows of water and ponds of clouds". William, when he grows up, uses this knowledge to woo the actress Angelica. He courts her with quaint drowner's secrets as they bathe in the tepid waters at Bath, their heads swimming "in alkaline gurgles" while their "billowing bodies titter and flirt".

But William turns away from his father's pagan artistry towards the modern science of engineering. He leaves his Wiltshire home and together with Angelica sets off on a journey which leads him across primeval Africa, past the thundering smoke of waterfalls, on under the unknown stars of the Southern Hemisphere to Australia, where drought roars across

the desert and goldminers scabble for treasure in silent landscapes of red dust. It is Will's task to bring water to the gold prospectors' town.

If *The Drowner* begins as a lurid, spooling gently through tradition and myth, the narrative is suddenly swept up by more dangerous currents. The oblique edge of nightmare glints through the dream. The author, himself Australian, powerfully captures the stark sweeter of the desert, "dazzling as sunstroke", where frantic prospectors drink urine and animal blood and lake-water so salty that their kidneys collapse, and a typhoid plague eddies through the town.

Water is a metaphor for life in this arid and alien land. But for Will and Angelica it becomes an image of death too — "deep, dormant and still... full of black suffering". Drewe slowly sifts the slt of romance away from a love story. He exposes the elemental passions which lie beneath, before these too dissolve away, seeping into madness.

An answer that works in theory, at least

Nigel Hawkes

FERMAT'S LAST THEOREM

The Story of a Riddle that Confounded the World's Greatest Minds for 358 Years
By Simon Singh
Fourth Estate, £12.99
ISBN 1 85702 521 0

FERMAT'S LAST THEOREM

Unlocking the Secret of an Ancient Mathematical Problem
By Amir D. Aczel
Viking, £9.99
ISBN 0 670 37638 0

Princeton, first claimed a proof. Agonisingly for Wiles, who had spent six years reaching this result, an error was detected after his proof was published. He had to start again, with the eyes of the world on him, to try to repair the damage. He finally did so, publishing the definitive version in May 1995.

The story is a marvellous one, but for popularisers it poses some difficult problems. Wiles's proof runs to more than 100 pages of the *Annals of Mathematics*, and under-

standing it requires a deep knowledge of 20th century maths. There are no short cuts. You cannot summarise the proof in a pithy phrase, or provide a physical model to aid understanding. If you could, it would not have taken 358 years to solve Fermat's puzzle in the first place.

Dr Simon Singh, the producer of a *Horizon* documentary about the proof, makes a better shot at solving this presentational problem than Dr Amir Aczel, an American academic. Both books contain a lot of mathematical history, and repeatedly stray from the story, but Singh's book does at least tell it, if you have the perseverance. Aczel's is shorter but he omits almost all detail of Wiles's work, so his consciousness is hardly a virtue.

Singh's book is also much better on the personality of Wiles, and his life-long determination to solve a problem he first encountered as a ten-year-old. To read it is to realise that there is a world of beauty and intellectual challenge that is denied to the 99.9 per cent of us who are not high-level mathematicians. For opening the window to that world even partially, Singh deserves congratulation: this is certainly the better of these two accounts.

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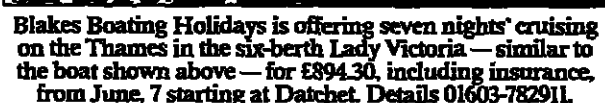
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■ IRISH Ferries has reduced holiday prices by £100 for departures on June 7 and 28, staying in a Co. Kerry cottage. Prices start at £424, including ferry. Details: 0990 170000.

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Survey reveals national traits

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE TYPICAL business traveller is not some high-flying, multinational white-kid, but middle-aged, married and working with a small service company, according to a new survey.

He or she makes 21 trips a year and spends on average 37 nights in hotels. Fewer than 40 per cent have children under the age of 18 living at home and nearly 60 per cent are over the age of 45. Only 15 per cent are under 35, demolishing the stereotype of the furiously busy young executive, says the OAG Business Travel Life-style Survey published by the Reed Travel Group this week.

But after interviewing 5,250 business travellers in nine countries they say there are individual differences, which reveal inherent national characteristics.

The British are the hardest drinkers during a flight. They are also the most self-confident and knowledgeable about safety procedures, but the most suspicious of technology.

The Americans are the "elder statesmen", having the most experience in air travel. They are older, more work-oriented and extremely keen on the Internet.

The French are nonchalant, unlikely to listen to safety announcements or even fasten their seat-belts. But they care more than any other nation about the key demand for all business flyers — legroom.

The Germans stick to the rules, book through the correct corporate channels and hand over their frequent-flyer benefits to the boss. They tend to travel in a suit and worry most about getting the cheapest fare. The Italians worry about being stranded without a clean shirt and grooming kit. The Australians stick to the lounge and are loyal to their national airline Qantas. The Japanese lack confidence and worry that something is going to go wrong with the plane or their business meeting.

The Singaporeans are the youngest, and buy toys for their children in airport shops. They eat through the flight and then take off the excess in the hotel gym. Hong Kong provides more women business travellers than any other country. They rely on their secretaries to make the arrangements — then sleep during the flight.

Business travellers agree that the most important reason for choosing a particular airline is the convenience of its flight schedules. This comes well ahead of its safety record and is nearly twice as important as food and drink which was the least important factor.

Working women have a harder time than men. They tend to be younger but only account for one in ten business travellers. They are unlikely to be married and they have lower status jobs. Women use hotel health facilities more than men but fret about losing their important papers.

Meanwhile, only three in ten men head for the gym, and 58 per cent say the most important factor in choosing a hotel was the availability of satellite and cable television. This compared with only 40 per cent who wanted business facilities and 22 per cent who demanded in-room faxes.

But, when flying, everyone agreed that the most important task is to avoid having to speak to a neighbouring traveller.

Budget airline cuts flights

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

HUNDREDS of airline passengers who had booked cut-price seats on easyJet services within Europe were told on arrival at Luton airport this week that their flights had been cancelled.

Several phoned *Travel News* to complain that their plans had been ruined because the airline had given no warning of the sudden changes.

Deborah Pliskin, of London, said: "I had taken a day off work especially to fly to Edinburgh and was horrified to be told that the flight would not be going. I asked other travellers at the airport whether they had been told of the cancellation and none had, even though one woman had booked only three days before, when the airline must have known it would not be operating the flight."

Senior executives at easyJet, which has bought five modern Boeing 737-300s, blame a financial squabble between the former owner and the previous operator of the Boeings for the delay in the delivery of the last two. These two aircraft were contracted for delivery on May 1. But because of the dispute, one arrived late and the other is still awaited.

James Rothnie, easyJet's marketing manager, said: "We were faced with trying to operate a flight schedule designed for five aircraft with a fleet of four. We could not have told anyone in advance because we were hoping right up to the last moment to charter another aircraft as a replacement."

Stelios Haji-Ioannou, the son of a Greek shipping magnate who is now sole owner and chairman of the low-cost airline, said he was "disappointed" that suppliers had let him down.

Now easyJet has admitted defeat and announced that all flight schedules are being changed until July 18 by



Stelios Haji-Ioannou, chairman of the low-cost airline, easyJet, which has bought five Boeing 737-300s

when, it says, it will have the other aircraft. Services on four of its eight scheduled routes from Luton — to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Amsterdam and Aberdeen — are being reduced by one or two flights a day. Passengers booked on the flights affected will be offered a full refund of their fare or a free transfer to the next available flight.

easyJet is modelled on the low-cost airlines that have revolutionised domestic American services. Booking staff — who share an open-plan office at Luton airport with senior executives, including the chairman — are paid 80p for every booking they make. The airline refuses to use travel agents and

passengers have to book directly, using their credit or debit cards. Reservations are made on the understanding that they cannot change or cancel their bookings. easyJet claims to have reduced its distribution costs from between 25 and 30 per cent to an average 2.5 per cent.

Passengers do not receive a ticket but are given a number on arrival at check-in, which they then swap on a first-come, first-served basis for a boarding card and the seat of their choice. There is no free food and drink but refreshments can be bought from the three cabin-crew members — the minimum number required by law to handle the

148 passengers. The cost-cutting has enabled the airline to levy fares at half the rate of rival mainstream airlines. A one-way ticket to Glasgow for example, now costs £29.

Mr Haji-Ioannou has, meanwhile, told Luton Borough Council that he wants to buy the airport. Analysts say that the local authority-owned airport is worth up to £100 million. The council has indicated it wants to find outside investors to help to develop the airport and is hesitating about selling to one company. Luton airport made a £1.6 million profit last year and this year expects to handle more than 3.5 million passengers.

National cycling route takes shape in Wales

By NICK NUTTALL

A 186-MILE cycle network linking Kidwelly Castle in the west with Newport in the east is taking shape in South Wales, marking the latest step in the scheme to create a National Cycle Network criss-crossing Britain.

Sustrans, which is developing many parts of the network, says £3.4 million of the more than £8 million needed to complete the route by the end of the decade has now been raised.

Mike Duxbury, South Wales cycle officer based at Groundwork, an environmental charity, says that 53 per cent of the route is now in place. A new section at Bridgend will be unveiled early next month.

The South Wales route, backed by local authorities, the Welsh Office, charities, the private sector and the Millennium Commission, will link with the Llanelli coastal park, Swansea, to the Neath Canal towpath, Port Talbot, the Taff valley, eventually joining the Monmouth Canal at Crosskeys, Caerphilly and Newport, is expected to generate an extra £18 million a year in tourism for the region. It could create an additional 1,000 jobs in accommodation, catering and other services.

Earlier this month the 250-mile West Country Way route between Padstow in north Cornwall and Bristol became the fifth of nine key routes which will form the backbone of the emerging 6,500-mile network. West Country Way crosses Exmoor National Park, the Mendip Hills and the Batlands of the Somerset Levels, using country lanes, canal towpaths and

disused railway lines. Routes between Workington and Newcastle upon Tyne, Carlisle and Inverness, Holyhead and Cardiff and Hull and Harwich are already in use.

A route is to open in Northern Ireland later this year and others are planned for the Midlands and between Bristol and Newbury.

Ben Hamilton-Baillie, regional manager of Sustrans, said the key routes were designed to act as "catalysts" for local initiatives. Eventually, he added, 15,000 miles of cycle route could result. The

charity was "astonished" that in the first year at least 15,000 people rode the Workington-Newcastle route, putting about £2 million into the local economy. "It proves that if you provide continuous routes, people will cycle," Mr Hamilton-Baillie said.

There is a latent demand for walking and cycling routes. The economic benefits are greater than we expected — cycle tourists spend more and distribute their spending more widely, which is important for village shops and bed and breakfasts.



Japan leads the way

DONATIONS from thousands of devoted Japanese fans of Beatrix Potter have helped to provide a safe and picturesque new route leading to the Lake District home of their favourite author, *Jas Fletcher writes*.

In return, all the signs along the three-mile path from the shore of Windermere have been written in Japanese as well as English. It means that hordes of Japanese "pilgrims" can now follow in the footsteps of Peter Rabbit rather than lose themselves in the surrounding Cumbrian woods.

Donations from across the world boosted funds for the construction of the path, which leads to the writer's old cottage. But the Japanese, who use her books to teach English and have become her fervent fans, provided the most.

After stepping off the ferry from Bowness, visitors can now admire the stunning scenery as they take the new path to the popular Hilltop shrine at Near Sawrey.

The work to build the path, which cost £12,000,



Potter at Hilltop, 1907

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This week *The Times* offers you the chance to save between £49 and £129 on a choice of two-night weekend stays at more than 70 Forte Posthouse Hotels in the UK. You pay only half the normal weekend price per couple.

These are ideal hotels for short breaks, especially if you are planning to get out and about this summer with our Virgin Trains £5-£20 return ticket offer. The hotels offer runs from June 1 to September 19, 1997 and includes the August bank holiday weekend. It is based on two adults sharing a double or twin room for a minimum of two nights, one of which must be a Saturday night, on an accommodation only basis.

Every day we are publishing a selection of participating hotels. Included in today's list, which covers the north of England, is a hotel overlooking the picturesque Hull marina, one at Wakefield, only an hour's drive from Haworth and, for touring the Lake District, we have a hotel close to Carlisle.

Correction: The price of a two-night break for two people in Gloucester is £59, not £49.

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The Good University Guide

Oxford and Cambridge still have an aura about them, but that need not deter students, says the Education Editor, John O'Leary

Don't be shy: you can apply to Oxbridge

Oxford and Cambridge play down their differences from other universities, but they represent another world when it comes to winning a place there. Although they are part of the admissions network, they have different deadlines from the rest of the system, and applications are made direct to colleges.

There is little to choose between the ancient universities in terms of entrance requirements, but a remarkable number of successful applicants have the maximum possible A-level score. However, that does not mean the

talented student should be shy about applying: Oxford and Cambridge have fewer applicants to the place than many less prestigious universities, and admissions tutors are always looking to extend the range of schools and colleges from which they can recruit. Overall, there are about three applicants to every place at Oxbridge, but there are big differences between subjects and colleges. As the tables below demonstrate, competition is particularly fierce in subjects such as medicine and English, but those qualified to read metallurgy or classics have a high chance of success. The pattern is similar to that

in other universities, although the high degree of selection (and self-selection) that precedes an Oxbridge application means that even in the less popular subjects the field of candidates is likely to be strong.

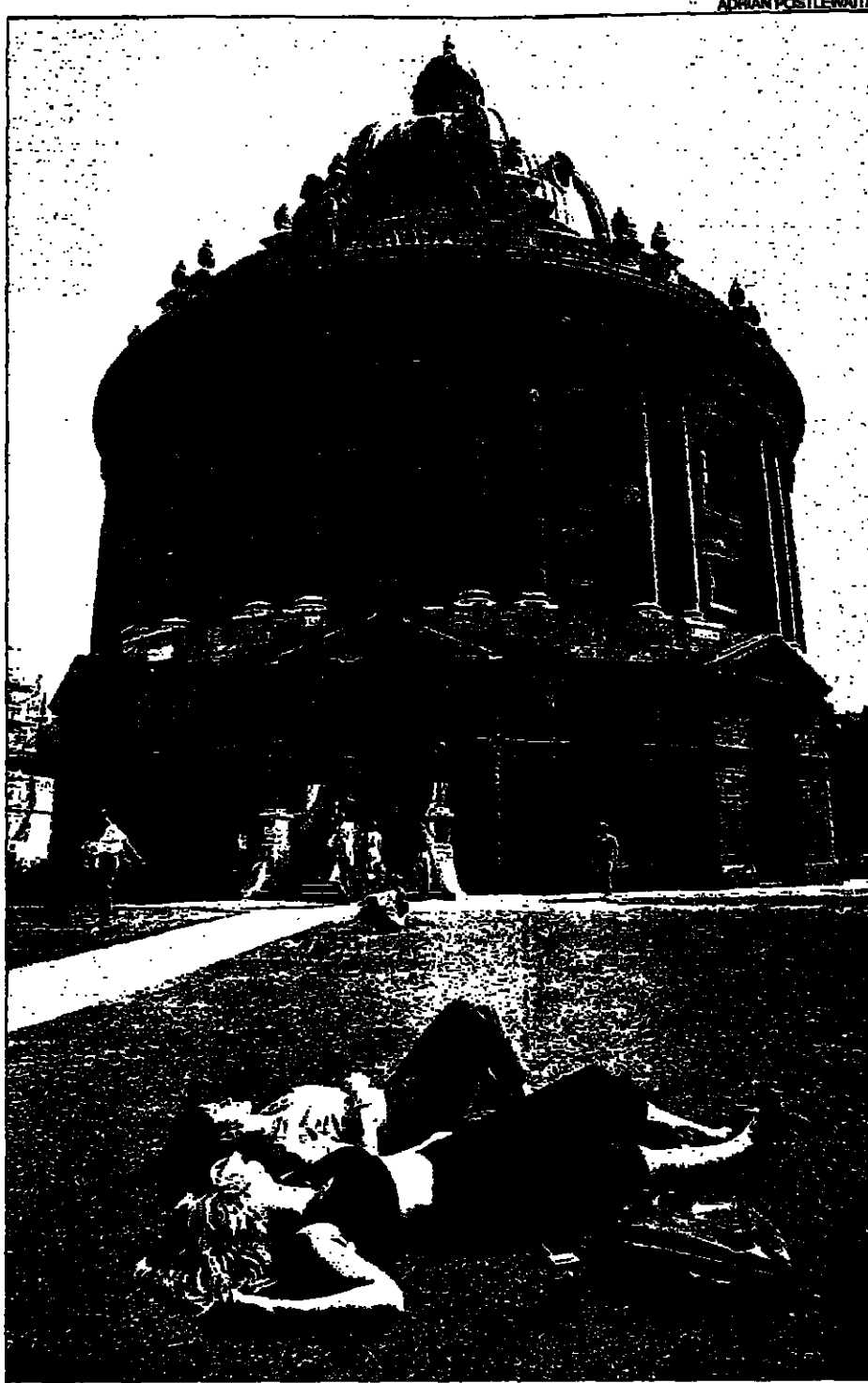
The universities' unwanted power to intimidate prospective applicants is based partly on myth. Both have done their best to live down the *Brideshead Revisited* image, but many sixth-formers still fear that they would be out of their depth academically and socially. In fact, the state sector produces about half the entrants to Oxford and Cambridge, and the dropout rate is lower than at many other universities.

The champagne set is still there, its activities well publicised, but the majority of students are hard-working achievers with the same concerns as their counterparts on other campuses. A joint poll by the two universities' student newspapers showed that undergraduates were spending much of their time in the library or worrying about their employment prospects, and relatively little on the river or in the college bar.

Student organisations at both universities have put in a great deal of effort trying to encourage applications from state schools, and some colleges have launched their own campaigns. Such has been the determination to convince state school pupils that they would get a fair crack of the whip that a new concern has grown up of possible bias against independent school pupils. In reality, however, the dispersed nature of Oxbridge admissions means that there is no conspiracy: just a variety of attitudes.

That is why thorough research to find the right college is so important. Even within colleges, different admissions tutors may have different approaches, so personal contact is essential. The college is likely to be the centre of your social life, as well as your home and study centre for at least a year. Famously sporty colleges, for example, can be trying for those in search of peace and quiet.

The tables on this page give



Inspiring: students soak up the sun in front of the Radcliffe Camera at Oxford

What we are looking for in a student

Applying to Oxford can seem formidable. How do colleges choose their students? Now that the traditional entrance examination at Oxford has been abolished, 12 years after Cambridge dispensed with theirs, the sense of its admission procedures as uncharted territory often causes anxiety among well-qualified candidates.

In fact, the disappearance of the exam signals a less radical change than is sometimes imagined; it has not been compulsory at Oxford for many years.

The long-standing popularity of the non-examination route has given colleges wide experience of offering places on the basis of school records and interviews, supplemented by the short tests or submitted work required by some subjects. Offers are now made as in other universities, with A-level or equivalent conditions attached.

Oxford wants two things from its students—ability and commitment. The academic syllabuses are demanding, and the intensive system leaves no room for the half-hearted. But motivation and talent come in many shapes and sizes, and from very diverse backgrounds. There is no such thing as the typical Oxford student. The only thing the students have in common is intellectual energy and drive.

In looking for that energy, colleges pay meticulous attention to all the evidence that candidate can supply, taking time to consider each application on its individual merits. Good GCSE results over a wide range of subjects speak highly of the student's discipline and curiosity. Teachers' assessments of the applicant's potential count for a lot. So, too, does the personal statement, giving every candidate the chance to make a direct appeal to tutors assessing their application. Over-statement, however, is best avoided: a convincing account of a few activities maintained to a high level says much for the applicant's focus and staying power, while chronicles of an astonishing variety of interests can be less helpful.

The university prospectus includes indispensable information, and some candidates miss the mark because they have not digested its advice. Only medicine has specific course requirements, but the prospectus makes it clear that appropriate subject underpinning is necessary for a number of other courses. The prospectus also describes what colleges can provide: St Hilda's, for example, is for women only; and Harris Manchester caters especially for mature students.

Choice of college will depend on personal priorities. Location, size, or the availability of accommodation might well be deciding factors. All colleges now run open days, often in conjunction with departmental open days, and these are an excellent way of learning more about the facilities and courses on offer, and about life in the colleges.

If all goes well, an application will be followed by a request to attend for interview. For many, this is by far the most alarming part of the whole process. Most tutors are sympathetic interviewers, well aware of how nerves can tangle the sentences of the brightest students.

It is also worth remembering that the interview will be primarily academic. There may be some general questions about extra-curricular accomplishments, but the interviewer is most interested in the applicant's suitability for the course in question.

By all means practise your interview technique, but prepared speeches are not wanted. Interviewers will quiz you on your work for your examination syllabuses, but they will also be looking for evidence that you have explored issues beyond them.

Remember also that the decision may not rest entirely on one interview. Almost all candidates will have more than one interview.

Candidates who do well have thought hard about what they want to study, and why they want to study. Oxford is more than a collection of black gowns and golden buildings: it is a concentration of people who care about thinking and learning. A serious wish to share those values is the best qualification any applicant can offer.

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DINAH BIRCH

Dr Birch is admissions tutor at Trinity College, Oxford.

CAMBRIDGE COLLEGE LEAGUE

College positions on the Tompkins table 1996 (1995)

1 (1) Christ's	13 (4) Corpus Christi
2 (20) St John's	14 (18) Magdalene
3 (6) King's	15 (9) Gonville & Caius
4 (16) Queens'	16 (18) Downing
5 (17) Clare	17 (13) Pembroke
6 (7) Trinity	18 (16) Jesus
7 (21) Trinity Hall	19 (17) Selwyn
8 (12) St Catharine's	20 (11) Newnham
9 (14) Fitzwilliam	21 (24) Robinson
10 (12) Peterhouse	22 (15) Churchill
11 (19) Sidney Sussex	23 (22) Girton
12 (13) Emmanuel	24 (22) New Hall

The Tompkins table is compiled from the degree results of final-year undergraduates. A first is worth five points, a 2:1 four, a 2:2 three, a third one point. The total is divided by the number of candidates to produce each college's average.

CAMBRIDGE ENTRANCE 1996

Faculty	Applications	Acceptances	%
Anglo-Saxon	45	19	42.2
Archaeology & Anthropol	142	56	39.4
Architecture	216	32	14.8
Classics	122	63	51.6
English	884	186	21.2
Geography	275	77	28.0
History	723	173	23.9
Mod & Medieval Languages	680	208	30.6
Music	154	54	35.1
Oriental Studies	82	23	28.1
Philosophy	140	45	32.1
Theology and Rel Studies	81	32	39.5
Total Arts	3394	961	28.3
Economics	647	161	24.9
Land Economy	79	27	34.2
Law	856	189	22.1
Social & Political Sciences	371	92	24.8
Total Social Sciences	1953	469	24.0
Computer Science	915	78	8.5
Mathematics	785	248	31.6
Natural Sciences	1729	561	32.5
Engineering	1049	252	24.0
Medical Sciences	1113	222	19.9
Veterinary Medicine	419	57	13.6
Total Science & Technology	5410	1418	26.2
TOTAL	10757	2868	26.7

an idea of the relative academic strengths of the colleges, as well as the varying levels of competition for a place in different subjects.

Neither the Norrington table, for Oxford, nor the Tompkins table, for Cambridge, is published by the university concerned. Indeed, Oxford has tried without success to make compilation impossible. However, both give an indication of where the academic powerhouses lie — information which can be as useful to those trying to avoid them as those seeking the ultimate challenge. Although there can be a great deal of movement year by year, both tables tend to be dominated by the rich, old foundations.

In both universities, for most students, teaching is

based in the colleges. In practice, however, this arrangement holds good only for the first year in the sciences. The one-to-one tutorials, which are the universities' traditional strength for undergraduates, are by no means universal. But teaching groups remain much smaller than in most universities. Both Oxford and Cambridge give applicants the option of leaving the choice of college to the university.

For those with no ready source of advice on the colleges, this would seem an attractive solution to an intractable problem, but it is also a risky one: a lower proportion gains admittance this way than by applying to a particular college and, inevitably, you may end up somewhere that you hate.

Both universities set a deadline of October 15, 1997, for entry in 1998. The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) form and a Preliminary Application Form (PAF) should be submitted simultaneously to your chosen university and UCAS. You may apply to only one in the same admissions year, unless you are seeking an Organ Award at both Oxford and Cambridge.

Interviews take place in September for those who have left school or applied early, but in December for the majority. By the end of October, the first group can expect either an offer, a rejection or deferral of a decision until January. That is when the main group of applicants will receive either a conditional offer or a rejection.

OXFORD COLLEGE LEAGUE

College positions on the Norrington table 1996 (1995)

1 (5) Merton	16 (26) Brasenose
2 (7) Balliol	17 (24) St Catherine's
3 (9) University	18 (10) Keble
4 (8) St John's	19 (22) St Peter's
5 (11) Corpus Christi	20 (15) Christ Church
6 (21) Hertford	21 (18) Pembroke
7 (12) Christchurch	22 (13) Lady Margaret Hall
8 (18) Queens'	23 (22) St Anne's
9 (6) Exeter	24 (29) St Edmund Hall
10 (16) Jesus	25 (11) Worcester
11 (17) Wadham	26 (11) St Hugh's
12 (7) Lincoln	27 (21) St Hugh's
13 (18) New College	28 (26) Somerville
14 (14) Trinity	29 (27) Somerville
15 (21) Magdalen	30 (30) Harris Manchester

Compiled on the same basis as the Tompkins table at Cambridge

OXFORD ENTRANCE 1996

Faculty	Applications	Acceptances	%
Ancient and Modern History	78	30	38.5
Archaeology and Anthropology	25	22	40.0
Classics	219	145	66.2
Classics and English	20	8	40.0
Classics and Modern Languages	33	11	33.3
Economics and Management	358	42	11.7
English	1018	271	26.7
European and Modern Languages	115	27	23.5
Law	900	20	2.2
Law and Law Studies in Europe	132	21	15.9
Geography	254	106	41.7
Mathematics	800	280	35.0
Modern History	35	15	42.9
Modern History & Economics	698	289	41.5
Modern History & English	55	19	34.5
Modern History & Modern Langs	80	14	17.5
Modern Languages	428	207	48.4
Music	104	32	30.8
Oriental Studies	172	43	25.0
Philosophy & Modern Languages	80	32	53.3
Philosophy & Theology	52	25	48.1
Physics and Philosophy	50	20	40.0
PPPE	989	320	32.4
Theology	84	48	57.1
Total Arts	6254	2061	33.3
Biochemistry	157	92	58.6
Biological Sciences	184	108	58.7
Chemistry	252	201	79.8
Computation	60	22	36.7
Earth Sciences (Geology)	40	32	80.0
Engineering Science	336	127	37.8
Engineering & Computer Science	60	14	23.3
Engineering, Econ & Management	79	29	36.7
Engineering & Materials	14	5	35.7
Experimental Psychology	181	41	22.5
Human Sciences	105	40	38.1
Mathematics	448	201	44.9
Mathematics & Computation	81	40	49.4
Medicine	619	101	16.3
Metallurgy & MEM	36	27	75.0
Physics	381	170	44.6
Physiological Sciences	19	19	100.0
PPP	187	53	28.3
Total Sciences	3294	1316	40.0
TOTAL	9548	3377	35.6

Running the gauntlet

I should lay my cards out at the start: I tried for Oxford in the lower sixth and was rejected. I tried for Cambridge post A-level last summer and got a place. Therefore half of this piece may well be a case of sour grapes, but the other half is an honest attempt to describe both experiences.

I chose Oxford initially partly because I applied to read English and believed that Oxford was for the arts and Cambridge for sciences. But I was more swayed by the thought of the Oxford entrance exam (now extinct) that would take some of the pressure off a subsequent interview if I passed, and gave me a conditional offer of two E grades to get in.

The whole Oxford experience was, in retrospect, character-building and, at the time, quite a lot of fun. The anticipation was far worse than the event, staying in college for two-and-a-half days to prepare for the interviews: the interviews, then trying to forget about them; sharing pints with other interviewees and swarming round Oxford. But in light of the relatively relaxed one-day affair at Cambridge, I did wonder whether the frantic trials and moments of terror at Oxford were entirely necessary.

Oxford might argue that the longer time spent at the university is an important part of the interview; it gives you a good idea of the college's environment and allows you time to explore the accommodation. All that is useless, though, if you perform abysmally in the interview because the whole process has been so overwhelming.

Cambridge was a far less



By ERIN BAKER

tense affair. I answered most questions with confidence, regardless of whether I had the faintest idea of what they were asking me.

At both universities I had a general and a subject interview (one interviewer for both the generals and the Cambridge subject interview, two for the Oxford subject). At both, the questions were demanding and the manner in which they were asked was often stern and off-putting. And at both I had to sit on a squishy sofa which was probably meant to make the candidate feel at home but which actually made matters worse: my keen, upright posture was replaced by an unimpressive slump.

So to what do I attribute the successful outcome at Cambridge? Admittedly, I was a year older, had three A grades at A-level and had gone through the rigours of

an Oxbridge application before. But there was a huge difference in the universities' attitude towards me. Simple statements in the newsletter about interviews sent by my Cambridge college, such as "Don't worry about what to wear... (within reason)" and "Try to be natural and relaxed" helped to portray the tutors as people who really did want to get the best out of me in interview.

Oxford did not send such sympathetic literature. I received just a couple of maps and instructions for what to do when I got there.

There was also a marked difference in the type of question I was asked in my subject interview. Questions were equally hard, yet at Cambridge they related more to books studied or coursework written. At Oxford they demanded the precise year of completion of a Dickens novel or the defining moment in a production of *The Taming of the Shrew* I admitted to having seen the year before.

The questions asked at interview depend heavily on the personal tastes and interviewing skills of the tutor and do not necessarily reflect the attitude of the university as a whole towards students. But I came out of my Cambridge interview feeling buoyed up by the knowledge that I had given the tutor a good idea of my intellectual capabilities, as opposed to crushed after going four rounds with a couple of Oxford heavyweights.

I'm sure that, even if I had been rejected by Cambridge as well, I would still have appreciated the calm way they conducted their interviews. Well, almost sure; I'm only human, after all.

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The Good University Guide

Harvey Atkinson and Amanda Loose look at ways of making ends meet and Hugh Thompson reports on the rising dropout rate

How to survive on a student allowance

This summer's shake-up of higher education finance by the Government means that students starting this autumn may be the last to be funded by the joint loan and grant system introduced seven years ago.

The demise of the student grant seems inevitable. In practice, its real value has been declining for years and it is likely to be replaced by a loan scheme allowing long-term repayment conditions.

Sir Ron Dearing's committee on the future of higher education may well suggest the establishment of a learning bank, where students borrow from their own account to pay for maintenance and possibly some element of tuition.

Changes have been demanded in student funding because of the growing levels of debt, and evidence of real hardship. Financial worries may also be deterring potential students from low-income households altogether.

The National Union of Students, among others, has been pressing for the new system to enable students to have enough money in their pockets to ensure that cash worries do not detract from their studies.

This September's freshers may be the last to enter higher education under the present maintenance system. With the Dearing Committee reporting back this summer, the future of student finance is likely to change beyond recognition. This may be too late for present and prospective students, so how can they make the most of their limited income?

Student grants are awarded by local education authorities in England and Wales and are means tested. It is a good idea to check with the appropriate body that the course applied to will attract a student award.

The full 1997-98 grant rates for students studying in London are £2,160, elsewhere £1,755, and for students living at home, £1,435. To ensure the grant cheque arrives at college when the student does, students should apply as soon as possible, but not before January of the year the course starts. There is no need to wait until a place is offered.

There are also extra allowances for students with dependants, who study longer than the standard academic year and those students

who have more than one home. Regulations for Scottish students are slightly different. They should contact the Student Awards Agency Scotland, Gyleview House, 3 Redheughs Rigg, Edinburgh EH12 9HH.

After the student grant, the next source of funding for most students will be the student loan. The loan is administered by the Students Loan Company and is worth a maximum of £2,035 for students studying in London, £1,645 for those studying outside London, and £1,260 for those living at their parents' home (1996-97 rates).

Students may apply for a loan only once a year. As it is a large amount of money to receive in one lump sum, students can have it paid in up to three equal instalments, which may assist in budgeting, and the student can rely on the extra income each term. However, even the combined income of a

As well as outgoings, the bank will also wish to see what income a student has, such as any grant/parental/spouse contributions, part-time work and any social security payments applicable. Students stand a better chance of arranging an overdraft by applying before the money is needed and being able to show why they need the money.

A final tip is to dress smartly. It can work wonders with bank staff. Don't forget to reply to bank letters as soon as they are received and ensure that unauthorised overdrafts do not occur. Not only are these costly, but they will jeopardise future borrowing.

Some students may be eligible for social security benefits. However, it is essential to seek expert advice from students' union or college welfare services to find out individual entitlements. As a general rule, single parents and students with disabilities are most likely to be eligible for some form of benefit. All students should consider applying for help with NHS costs. By filling out an HCl form (available from most college welfare services), students may be able to get free prescriptions and dental treatment, or help towards them. If a student is receiving a full grant and a loan, and has no other income, he or she stands a good chance of receiving assistance.

Even with the grant, loan and overdraft, it may still be hard to balance the books. Students in this situation may have to get a part-time job. Many universities have set up student employment bureaux that advertise jobs with flexible working arrangements and good rates of pay. Otherwise, employment agencies and students' unions are often a good source of part-time work.

For some students, even part-time work may not solve the shortfall in their income, and an Access Fund payment may be needed. Introduced in 1990, when the majority of students lost entitlement to social security benefits, this is a hardship fund. Students apply to their college for an award which may be a non-repayable grant or repayable short-term loan. Each college has to abide by the Access Fund regulations, but will also have its own criteria (usually on a means-tested basis), so the amounts vary from £100 to £3,000.



Advice please: if the student grant and loan are not enough, the main high street banks offer competitive student packages

A lesson in planning your budget

Juggling your finances can be tricky — to say the least — when you are studying, as Kirstie Robbie knows better than most. Ms Robbie, 23, spent a year of her degree course in public relations at Bournemouth University, at Barclays Bank, where she worked on their student-debt campaign, a survey into student finances and debt.

Ms Robbie says: "It gave me a real insight into student finances. I didn't realise how bad student debt could be. And, of course, after earning £12,000 that year, it was very difficult for me to budget my money when I went back to university."

Ms Robbie talked to the student business officer at the bank on campus. "When you arrive in the

first year, it is tempting to blow all of your money in the first few weeks," she says. "My social life was much better at university, and it was very easy to go out every night to local pubs, clubs and fresher events."

"Some people spend their entire overdraft limit at once, but find that they need it to back up their grant and loans. I don't receive a grant from my local authority, but get a parental contribution each month. I have had a few money problems, but they have been sorted out largely by my parents or the bank."

Ms Robbie and the business officer drew up a budget planner,

including hidden extras such as electricity and gas bills, food, travel to the campus and stationery. From this, Ms Robbie knew how much money she would need to spend each week.

She says: "I worked in Top Shop during my first year so I was quite self-supporting. I had eight to ten hours of lectures each week, and the hours at the shop were quite flexible. I simply haven't had time for a job in my final year."

Ms Robbie spends £45 a week on rent, about £10 on bills and £30 to £40 on general expenses, such as food and going out. She has taken out a student loan for £900 to buy a computer and, as well as a monthly

parental contribution, has an overdraft of £800. "We have been encouraged to take out student loans. Some invest them, others buy a computer, and many take them out when they reach the final limit on their overdraft," she says. "Before I took out my overdraft, my bank sat down with me and went through what I spent each week, and pointed out where I could spend less, such as on taxis to the campus and on going out."

Ms Robbie says the best approach is to work out the number of weeks in each term, your weekly expenses and then how much is left. If you blow more than your week's budget, she says, the gas bill is sure to land on your mat.

AMANDA LOOSE

When you cannot carry on

One of the big secrets in the growth of universities is the dropout rate. Few notice that almost one in five of those going to university never finish the course.

A small sample of neighbours reveals one student who dropped out early because he

realised that neither the course nor university life were for him, and another who left just before his final year when his summer job graduated into his chosen career. A third

became bored after 18 months of "mediocre" teaching and a fourth realised near the end of her RADA course that the last thing she wanted to do was be an actress.

Chas Newkey-Burden, who left his BA in journalism at the London College of Printing last summer, a year early, said: "My work experience at IPC just carried on. As a back-up, I asked to defer the last year of the course, but that was just an unnecessary safety net. In the end, you learn more in two days on the job than you do in two years at university."

Lella Edwards, the dean of students at the University of Bath, says: "Overall, there is a very real problem with the clearing system run by UCAS when an increasing number of students in a rushed and ill-considered way find a course, for which many are totally unsuited. Many have failed to get into the course of their first choice and this in itself presents them with certain problems when they start university."

At present, while the non-completion rate for university degrees is about 17 per cent, those coming from the clearing system are taking up about 20 per cent of university places. Jess Enderby, of UCAS, says: "Last year we tried to conduct a survey into whether those qualifying through the clearing system had the worst failure rate and we found two things.

data and among those that did the findings were inconclusive. We would like to know if there are large numbers who, having made a rash decision to go on a course, live to regret it."

Failure is not confined to those who fail to get into their first-choice course or leave their application to the last moment.

Imperial College vies with Cambridge to be the most prestigious scientific university in the UK, and straight As are normal. Yet while the dropout rate is very low — less than 2 per cent — the failure rate at the end of the first year is about 10 per cent.

John Cousins, director of undergraduate studies in electrical engineering at Imperial College, says: "The students here work very hard, and some find it very difficult to change from A-level to university work. We support the students, but don't carry them — they must perform. Some are not up to it."

Others, however, feel that the larger numbers on campus lessen personal contact with tutors which may, in other circumstances, have kept someone on the course.

Kay Day, head of the academic quality unit at Manchester University, says: "Not all dropping out is negative. Many move from a course and university where they are failing to one where they do well. Our experience of dropping out is that most go in their first term."

HUGH THOMPSON



Chas Newkey-Burden: learnt more in two days at work

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HENLEY MANAGEMENT COLLEGE

Desmond Dearlove introduces a report on the first private business school in the UK to be granted degree-awarding status

Celebration for a seat of educational excellence

BUCKINGHAM Palace has been the scene of a ceremony to mark the granting of degree-awarding powers to Henley Management College. The Queen, accompanied by Prince Charles, the Duke and Duchess of York, and other members of the royal family, were present. The ceremony took place in the presence of a large number of guests, including Henley's staff and students. The Queen presented a diploma to Sir Roger Hurst, chairman of Henley, and to Sir Desmond Dearlove, who introduced the report on the college's achievements. The ceremony was a significant milestone for Henley, which has been a leading business school in the UK for many years.

Last March, Henley Management College became the first independent postgraduate business school in the UK to be given the degree-awarding powers of a university. Acting on the recommendation of the Higher Education Quality Council (HEQC) and the Department for Education and Employment, the Queen in Council approved an amendment to Henley's Royal Charter to grant Henley the power to award taught degrees. Sir Roger Hurst, chairman of Smiths Industries and of the Court of Governors of Henley, said: "This is an extremely important milestone in Henley's development. In future, a Henley degree will be one of the best accolades someone can have on their CV."

For Henley, one of Europe's largest international business schools, the new powers are recognition of a commitment to academic quality and will replace an arrangement with Brunel University to accredit its degrees. Henley's principal, Ray Wild, believes that Henley's new status will allow the college to respond more flexibly to the demands of students and corporate clients. "Because of the way management education is developing, it's important that we are our own masters," he says. "We have always had our own quality control, but when our degrees were awarded by Brunel we were seen by the auditing organisations as part of Brunel's management faculty. As such we were audited second-hand. Universities tend to put degree courses in neat little boxes. A programme is either a distance-learning degree or it's a part-time degree. What we have to respond to

in future is increasing demand for a more flexible approach, which combines elements of distance learning and face-to-face teaching and support."

Founded in 1945, Henley was established to provide much-needed management training as Britain began to rebuild its industrial strength after the Second World War. By the 1960s and 1970s, however, as management education became recognised as a degree subject in its own right, the universities had begun to establish business schools. Now the wheel has come full circle.

Unlike a university, however, Henley has only one subject area and it is, therefore, classified as monotechnic. It will award only two types of degree: MBA and MSc, both postgraduate.

The decision to extend special status to Henley follows a rigorous evaluation by the HEQC. As a commercial organisation with no government funding, the college had to demonstrate that it would continue to meet the exacting standards required of all British degree-awarding institutions. Henley has already told the 5,600 students currently studying for degrees what the changes will mean. Depending on how far into their course they are, they will either receive a Brunel degree or have the option of the equivalent qualification from Henley. All new students will be registered for Henley degrees.

The move represents a significant development for management education in the UK. It could also add to the debate on the shape and nature of universities that is likely to follow the publication of the Dearing Report.



Relaxation by the Thames at Henley's degree ceremony last Saturday — the last at which the college's awards will be externally ratified

Leading the learning revolution

How technology brings students from all over the world into the same classroom

Set in the rolling Oxfordshire countryside and nestling on the banks of the Thames, Greenlands is home to Henley Management College. The historic site, once the country retreat of Lord Hambleden and just a few miles from the home of the famous Regatta, offers a learning environment that is unsurpassed for its beauty and tranquillity.

The college offers a wide range of residential and part-time programmes, and enjoys an enviable reputation among management education institutions for innovation and flexible delivery.

Like other business schools, there are two main areas: qualification courses — in Henley's case postgraduate only — with full-time, part-time and distance-learning programmes leading to diploma level, MBA or MSc; and shorter executive development courses, including the flagship four-week senior management programme and Henley's innovative business transformation programme.

Whereas other business schools have preferred to ring-fence the two activities to keep them apart, Henley has always preferred to link them. Ultimately, says Professor Ray Wild, Henley's principal, the college would like to award credits for all courses so that shorter residential programmes could, where appropriate, count towards a recognised qualification. Henley prides itself on its strong links with industry and has ongoing relationships with many corporate clients. PowerGen, the international electricity company, has sent more than 300 managers to Henley since 1992 to address strategic and cultural challenges facing the company.

John Hart, the company's personnel director, says: "PowerGen's relationship with Henley has flourished over the past five years. This

period has seen dramatic changes to our industry and it has been vital to keep our managers up to date and to give them an opportunity to contribute to developments."

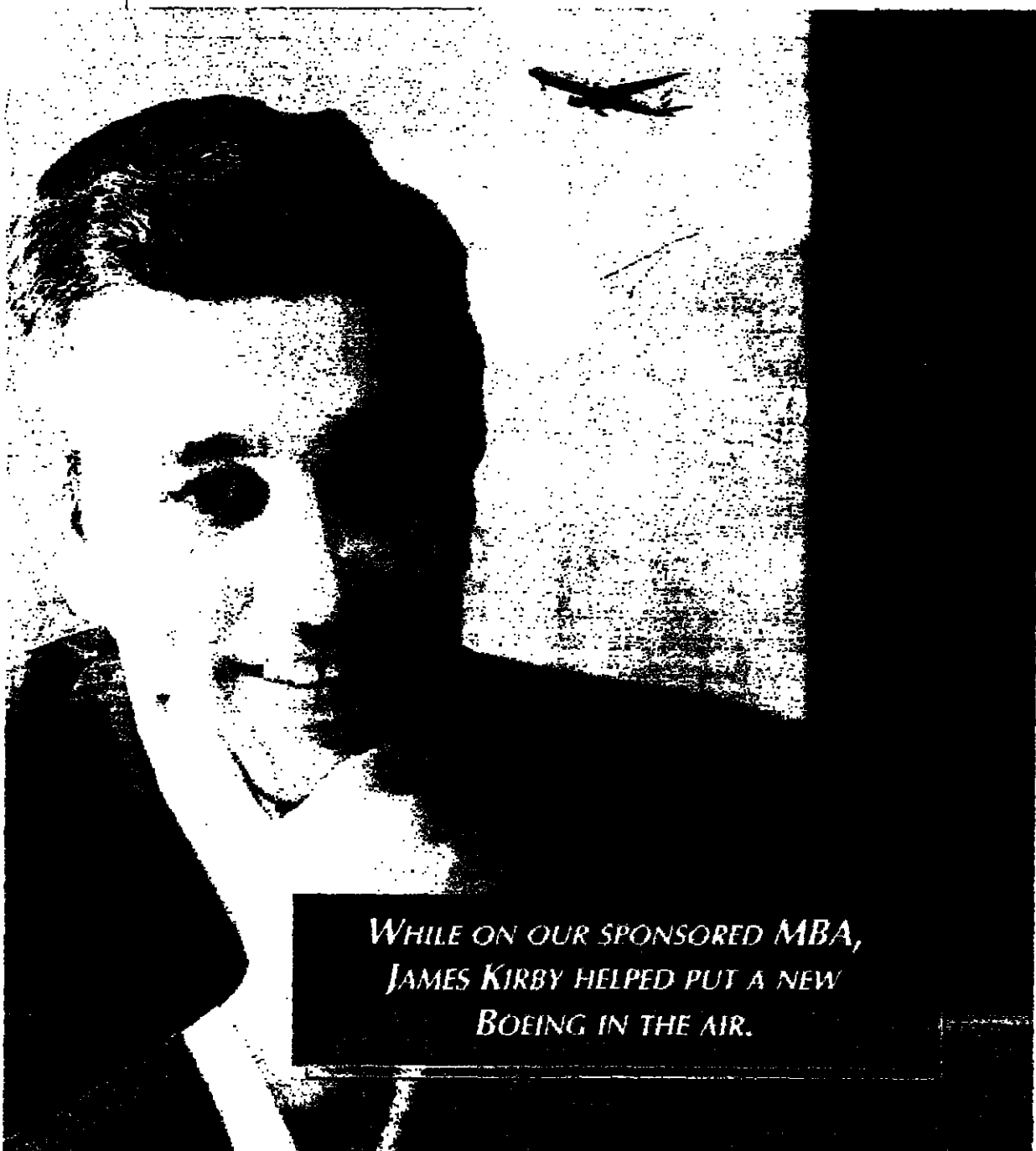
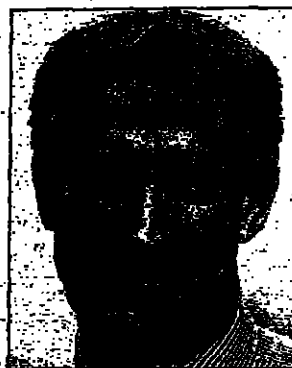
Outside the UK, Henley is probably best known for its distance-learning courses, which, with 7,000 students in more than 100 countries, make up the largest part of its business. The first time many of Henley's customers set foot inside Greenlands is at graduation.

Once they get a taste for it, they often come back for more. Mitra Mahabir from Trinidad, completed his MBA through distance learning, then the senior management programme. "I would not want to choose between them," he says. "They are complementary."

The college supports its overseas students through the Henley Network, a global network of institu-

KEY DATES

- 1945 The Administrative Staff College for Industry and Commerce is incorporated after 15 years of discussion and planning between Lyndall Unwick, formerly director of the International Management Institute in Geneva, and Harry Swainston, sales manager of his Master's Voice. Students are offered a general management course.
- 1946 Greenlands at Henley-on-Thames is leased to the college by the Hambleden family trust, of W.H. Smith bookshop fame. Six years later the college buys the property freehold.
- 1968 The Senior Course starts (originally called General Management Appreciation Course).
- 1972 Henley becomes an 'associated institution of Brunel University'.
- 1974 First Masters' Degree programme established.
- 1981 Development of first distance-learning courses.
- 1988 Electronic support for distance-learning MBA students commences.
- 1990 Professor Ray Wild, above, appointed principal.
- 1991 Royal Charter of Incorporation granted. Name changed to The Henley Management College.
- 1992 Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) programme launched. College becomes NVQ-accredited.
- 1995 Fiftieth Anniversary Year. The Duke of Edinburgh is college patron.
- 1997 Degree-awarding powers granted.



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In a crisis? Call the troubleshooters

**Widget Finn on
the work of the
Henley Learning
Partnership**

Philip James, head of human resource development at National Air Traffic Services, sees the Henley Learning Partnership as a cost-effective way of tapping into the experiences and best practice of other organisations.

During the past five years, National Air Traffic Services has gone through a period of significant change which involved cutting costs and reducing staff.

"We have become much more customer-focused, concentrating on improving our services to our customers, which are mainly airlines," says Mr James. "We've concluded that we're a service organisation like any other, and have got a lot to learn from those who have gone through the same experiences."

"Our senior managers discuss the issues which we're coming across with other members of the Henley Learning Partnership and together we work through some solutions."

The Henley Learning Partnership was established in 1995 to enable a group of corporate clients to work with the college providing learning opportunities for senior managers within their organisations.

The menu of options includes development forums which focus on key issues nominated by the participants and are headed up by high-level speakers. Senior managers and directors can attend seminars while a consortia programme is run for groups of companies on a specific topic. Popular subjects at the moment are business transformation and scenario planning.

"Henley Learning Partnership responds to the clients' needs and the changing business environment," explains Jane Cranwell-Ward, director of the partnership. "During the recession, there was little movement between companies or new blood coming in. The challenge for companies is to continue to grow the business through a cross-fertilisation of ideas and experiences."

Henley Management College promotes the partnership to attract high-calibre partners. It also acts as co-ordinator, providing a communication network for members. So far,



Winning team: Jane Cranwell-Ward, director of the Learning Partnership, the PowerGen library at Henley Management College, and Richard McBain, MBA director

18 organisations have signed up including Storehouse, Cheshire County Council, Vodafone and IBM. The college aims to have 50 participants by the year 2000.

Nationwide Building Society, one of the members, contributed to the research and received the final

report which, as Nationwide's corporate human resources consultant Stan Vickers points out, "saved us from having to spend time covering similar ground ourselves". The point of the forums is to get practical advice, claims Ms Vickers. "We were given information from Bar-

claycard on how they measure their training and development, while another organisation passed on advice on knowledge management."

A primary aim of the partnership is to provide a business network. Anthony Eastwood, manager for general affairs at Nissan Motor GB,

finds it useful to pick up the phone and talk to other professionals outside the company who can give an unbiased opinion. "It's good to bounce ideas off someone who isn't involved but has similar experiences," says Mr Eastwood. Talking through a burning issue with

another manager gives me an understanding of what's happening in other businesses. It also reminds me that a lot of managers are facing the same sort of problems."

Meeting fellow directors and senior managers informally means that people are honest about their experiences, claims Jane Cranwell-Ward. "The environment of a forum is very different from a conference, and company speakers tell it how it is, rather than giving a glossy impression of how it might have been," she says. "Members find it very valuable to be learning from other's mistakes as well as their successes."

Features under discussion for the future include the concept of troubleshooters who would provide free consultancy-type help between members to tackle a particular problem. Regular work-replacements where managers spend time in fellow-members' organisations, are also on the agenda.

The cost of an annual subscription to the Henley Learning Partnership is £3,500, which Philip James sees as good value for money. "I reckon that our organisation gets its money's worth," says Mr James, "and it's nice to work with a management college when it's not costing us money all the time."

Getting the regalia right

Ever since it received its new status, jokes have been flying about Henley's possible choice of colours for degree gowns. Desmond Dearlove writes.

One of the more outlandish suggestions is a pin-striped gown with tasselled bowler hat to complement.

Ray Wild, Henley's principal, isn't ruling it out, but suggests that something more traditional will prevail.

"A lot of people favour something with blue and green in it to denote Greenlands and the Thames," he says. "We have even thought about including pockets for portable PCs and mobile phones."

But there is no truth, he says, to rumours that the BBC will preview the new regalia on *The Clothes Show*.

Then there is the mace to think of. Academic power, like that of Parliament, is vested in the ceremonial club. But Henley runs courses throughout the world and the new mace may have to attend degree-awarding ceremonies in far-flung places.

A folding or telescopic mace that fits in a briefcase may be the most practical answer.

Choosing the right music, too, is a thorny issue. It has to be something with gravitas without being stuffy.

"Personally, I favour something British," says Professor Wild. "George Harrison lives just down the road. I suppose we could ask him, or Elton John has a house not far from here." They await his call.

Tailor-made for the real world

When it comes to sponsoring MBAs, striking a balance between what's good for the company and the manager is critical. In the past, some companies sent their high-flyers on full-time MBA courses only to find that time spent away from work and raised expectations meant they didn't come back.

In effect, the companies were paying for the training, but weren't getting the benefits.

Today, a growing number of employers favour the Company MBA approach offered by Henley and other UK business schools. The way the programmes are structured — a combination of distance learning and residential workshops — means that managers get the oppor-

tunity to gain an MBA, while an element of tailoring adds value to the company's investment.

The key to the success of a Company MBA is "contextualisation". By ensuring that classroom theory is set in the context of real issues, knowledge and ideas can be imported directly into a company and applied immediately.

Henley pioneered the approach in the UK in 1986. It now runs programmes for more than 60 organisations, making it the UK market leader.

Richard McBain, director of studies of Henley's inter-company MBA programme, says: "We

believe you can combine academic rigour with an on-going partnership with corporate clients. We don't alter the core contents of the MBA syllabus, but we do add value to the sponsor by focusing the theory on their business."

Henley offers three different models of company MBAs. All are part-time. Companies taking part often use their own senior managers as speakers at workshops.

For organisations wishing to address specific internal issues, Henley offers a single company MBA or diploma where all students are drawn from a single sponsor. Unilever, PowerGen, Standard

Chartered Bank, Thames Water and the African company Ashanti Goldfields have all used this model to good effect.

Inter-company, or consortium MBAs, involve a group of companies — usually between four and six — from a cross-section of industries. More than 40 organisations have taken part, including Ford, Hewlett-Packard, BICC, Rank Xerox, Inter-Continental Hotels, Smiths Industries and the Audit Commission.

Henley's third model caters for multinational companies. Those taking part include Mercedes-Benz, Continental AG, Rank Xerox, United Distillers and Electrolux.

DESMOND DEARLOVE

Morgan Stanley congratulates

HENLEY
Management College

*on receiving
degree awarding powers*

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TOTAL

Kent pegged back after stirring strokes from Ward

By Jack Bailey

HORSHAM (first day of four: Kent won toss; Sussex with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 143 runs behind Kent)

APART from the awful over-rate, it was all as it should have been: a full day's cricket in unlikely circumstances, considering the ravages to the county programme elsewhere, and some compensation for the loss of three complete days out of five in the Horsham week last year.

In many ways, it was a curiously old-fashioned day's play, too — appropriate for a fixture last played on this ground in 1927 — in which swing bowling of a full length was best rewarded and batsmen who got to the pitch of the ball and swung the bat straight and true had their fair share of success.

For Sussex, this was epitomised by Keith Newell's medium-paced outswingers along the line of the off stump, which brought him career-best figures of four for 61. For Kent, there was Trevor Ward's rumbustious 67 from 85 balls, with 12 fours, which threatened to take the match away from Sussex almost before it had started.

With four wickets down overnight, the Sussex batsmen have not quite managed to complement a pretty good performance in the field. With good spells from Jarvis and Drakes in support of Newell, they were brisk and business-like. Moores is a good wicketkeeper and a cheerful captain and yesterday, at any rate, his charges responded well, taking eight wickets for less than 100 after Kent's racing start to 119 for one.

A last-wicket stand featuring the injured David Fulton removed some of the gloss but bowling out Kent for less than 250 was a notable achieve-

ment and Greenfield's subsequent resistance for almost two hours helped keep a smile on the face of Robin Marlar, the new Sussex chairman.

Conditions were such that batting was an option that Marsh probably took with mixed feelings after winning the toss, for there was every prospect of assistance for the seam-up bowlers in the dank, humid conditions. Not that the Sussex bowlers exactly rushed to grasp the opportunities offered.

True, Jarvis was lively and menacing. He struck Fulton on the left arm with the second ball of the day and when the batsman left for hospital and an X-ray, a broken arm seemed a strong possibility. When he returned — nothing worse than bad bruising having been diagnosed — Kent

SCOREBOARD

KENT: First Innings	
D P Fulton not out	35
T B Ward c Moores b Jarvis	67
A P Wells c Radford b K Newell	20
N J Long b Jarvis	9
G R Cowdrey c Robinson b Jarvis	28
M V Fleming b Jarvis	14
T S A Marsh c Moores b Drakes	1
M J McCague c Jarvis b Drakes	6
P A Strang c Lenthall b K Newell	1
B J Phillips c Robinson b K Newell	15
Extras (1 lb, 6 w, 4 nb, 24)	37
Total (65.3 overs)	245

SUSSEX: First Innings	
T A Radford c Jarvis b Phillips	4
A Greenfield c Fulton b Strang	8
N J Lenthall c McCague b Phillips	8
C W J Athey b Strang	17
N Newell not out	19
A A Khan not out	9
Extras (1 lb, 6 w, 4 nb, 24)	37
Total (4 wickets, 38 overs)	102

FALL OF WICKETS 1-51, 2-119, 3-128, 4-156, 5-175, 6-199, 7-203, 8-215, 9-218, 10-222, 11-230, 12-245-0, K Newell 15.3-46-4.

were in a pickle and he was needed to stiffen resistance.

However, the Fulton incident apart, the early exchanges favoured Kent. Ward was in attacking form and Walker his usual ebullient self, although he perished early to a beauty from Jarvis.

Ward's strokeplay was chiefly responsible for Alan Wells coming in to face his former team with the score beyond 50 in the day's ninth over. Drakes's no-balling contributed to this state of affairs more than it should have. In his first spell of five overs he yielded 33 runs, ten of them from no-balls, and you had to wonder at the lack of discipline involved.

Drakes made up for it later when he made searching inroads into Kent's middle-order, but meanwhile Kent, chiefly through Ward, had been making swift progress. When Ward drove Robinson for four to bring up the 100, it was the sixteenth boundary of the day in the eighteenth over and Ward had long since passed his half-century, with nine fours, from 55 balls. Kent looked set for a big score.

Yet Newell had already cast a small shadow. Suddenly there was playing and missing outside the off stump and even Ward could be seen to chafe at the bit.

In quick succession, he was caught behind from an indirect creel wait and then Wells was caught in the gully. Newell had taken two for five in 15 balls and, for Sussex, this was the start of something very much better.

Graham Cowdrey played well for a while and Fulton held things together towards the end of the innings. Although Ben Phillips kept Sussex in check when they batted, you could not help but admire their spirit.

From angry young man to old swinger

Simon Wilde finds Phillip DeFreitas at peace with the world on his return to the England side

FOR the umpteenth time, English cricket is aiming for a fresh start at Headingley today. If you require an early indication as to how it is going, you could do worse than keep an eye on Phillip DeFreitas, all-rounder and the best barometer there is of the nation's cricketing fortunes.

When DeFreitas is doing well England tend to do well; when he does badly they usually do badly. He was there when England last won the Ashes, under Mike Gatting, ten years ago. He was there as a destructive new-ball bowler when West Indies were held 2-2 in 1991. He was there as a dangerous lower-order hitter when runs were essential to Australia's defeat at Adelaide in 1995.

He was also there at the start of three of the past four Ashes campaigns: Headingley 1989, Old Trafford 1993 and Brisbane 1994. Disasters all. In the last, DeFreitas launched the series by bowling a wide long-hop that Slater gratefully lapped to the boundary. That was as long as that particular fresh start lasted.

He was there, too, when England tried in vain to garner the last few runs needed to win the World Cup of 1987 and 1992 and there when Jayasuriya tore them to shreds in the quarter-final at Faisalabad early last year. DeFreitas taking so much punishment that he finished up bowling off spin. That was his most recent game for England. Many thought it would be his last.

But DeFreitas, who runs in to bowl as though Big Bad Wolf is trying to blow his house down, is nothing if not a survivor. He has been dropped and recalled from the side so many times that everyone has lost count. In the early days this was regarded as a weakness: mani-



DeFreitas, who has known triumph and despair as an England player, will run in with renewed enthusiasm against Australia at Headingley today

festly he is not good enough, the sages muttered. Now, it is seen as a strength: clearly, they say, he is too good to be without.

In fact, in all the to-ing and fro-ing, he has rarely been far from the selectors' thoughts. Before his latest banishment

from the Test side began two years ago, he had been ignored for an entire series, home or away, only twice (against India in 1990 and West Indies in 1993-94) and his place in the limited-overs side was more or less taken for granted. When he was

last dropped, he had appeared in 101 out of the 128 one-day internationals England had played since his debut.

This knife-edge existence has had an interesting effect on DeFreitas. He used to be an angry young man, who

fell out with county teammates and railed at his rejections. But, perhaps because he has suffered so much, he now displays an inner peace and, though he is 31, is once again running around "like a 19-year-old".

He was content to spend last winter at home for the first time in 12 years, carefully monitoring his diet and fitness and acting as an ambassador for Derbyshire in the local community, attending dinners and visiting junior schools ("the teachers were pretty surprised to see me," he recalls). Only the other day he said that he had never doubted that England would call on him again.

He has returned so often after being written off that the press have now tired of saying his international

'He has been dropped and recalled so many times everyone has lost count'

career has ended. And DeFreitas, who used to be suspicious of the men from the media, engages them now.

On Wednesday he even felt them a "line". "I've made more comebacks than Sinatra," he said. "Never mind of blues eyes. Brown eyes is back." Everyone wrote it down. They — we — would never have dared repeat such a hackneyed phrase, but, because DeFreitas said it, it became acceptable.

Asked how he felt about his bowling being dismantled during the decisive phase of a limited-overs match on Sunday by a man who only hours earlier had chosen him for the Texaco Trophy squad, he was amiability itself. "Gat was great at Lord's," he said. "So helpful. Anything can happen in these Sunday games, you know."

If this latest fresh start is to work, England may need DeFreitas to be at his coolest in the days ahead.

Hayden offers hint of returning form

By Richard Hobson

CARDIFF (first day of four: Glamorgan won toss; Hampshire have scored 94 for one wicket against Glamorgan)

MATTHEW HAYDEN'S reluctance to leave the crease yesterday was understandable. Leaning on his bat as darkening skies showed every intention of bursting open, he appeared crestfallen as Kevan James, his partner, opted to go off for bad light. Minutes later, it poured.

Hayden has endured a difficult time since joining Hampshire at the start of the season. The presence in this country of the Australia side of which he had hoped to be a member can only have heightened his concern.

His form has mirrored that of his new club — poor — and, having completed his first half-century in 14 innings against county opposition in all competitions, he wanted to add to his tally while the force was with him.

Hampshire are the only side with two championship defeats this season and but for rain, they would have lost to Essex, too, as they were chasing 538 when the heavens opened at Chelmsford.

Conditions were more tolerable at Sophia Gardens yesterday but 67 overs were lost in total. Yet, during what play was squeezed between interruptions, Hampshire proceeded with a little more confidence than could have been expected, given those previous results.

Glamorgan, after winning the toss, did not utilise the conditions to anything like as well as Matthew Maynard must have envisaged when he turned his bowlers loose. Only one wicket fell in the seventh over, when Giles White pushed forward uncertainly to Waqar Younis and offered a thick edge to Steve James at third slip.

Thereafter, Hayden and James added 74 in 30 overs. The cricket was of that fascinating but unspectacular nature that provokes passionate chatter among connoisseurs but leaves the remainder of the population baffled as to the appeal of the sport.

A two-paced pitch demanded suspicion, as aficionados recognised. Only rarely did Hayden complete his strokes with a full follow-through. His half-century, from 92 balls, included just four boundaries and two of those came when he had already passed 40, as he pushed Thomas and Watkin watchfully through long-off. His one moment of fortune came at 51, when Morris dropped a difficult catch at slip off Waqar.

In terms of defensive skills, James lost nothing by comparison with his partner. Indeed, it was he who faced the most searching deliveries from Watkin, which screamed menacingly from a length before tea.

Had Hayden been at the striker's end to deal with these, he might have made his final exit with a little more enthusiasm.

Curran's bright contribution adds to Lancashire's gloom

By Barney Spender

OLD TRAFFORD (first day of four: Northamptonshire won toss; Northamptonshire have scored 281 for four wickets against Lancashire)

IT IS one of the anomalies of cricket that Lancashire have not won the county championship outright since 1934. True, they did share it with Surrey in 1950 and they have won a host of one-day competitions, but, given their pedigree and the quality players to have worn the red rose, it is a puzzling record.

Yesterday, Brian Statham, Clive Lloyd, Farokh Engineer and Jack Simmons all came to Old Trafford to lend their support to the latest vintage but, after a hard-nosed, attritional day's cricket, they must have left with the feeling that it will be at least another year before the crown returns to Manchester.

Already propping up the table, they were made to sweat by some graft from the Northamptonshire top order before Kevin Curran brightened everyone's day with a bustling 91 not out. Another nine runs this morning will give him the county's first championship hundred of the season.

When bad light stopped play with the regulation 104 overs bowled, Northamptonshire had reached the potentially powerful position of 291 for four. In mitigation, Lancashire had five first-team players missing. With Mike Atherton, John Crawley and Graham Lloyd all on England duty, the heart is missing from their batting.

That may cause problems today but the position was exacerbated by the absence, through injury, of their two all-rounders, Wasim Akram and Mike Watkinson. Neil Fairbrother, almost the only senior player left, took over the captaincy. Without Wasim, who is nursing a shoulder injury, the bowling lacked a cutting edge, and without



Curran: bustling innings

Watkinson's off spin, they were short of a bowler to bottle up one end. All the bowlers struggled, although Gary Keedy, their Yorkshire-born slow left-arm, found enough turn in the middle session to collect the wickets of Rob Bailey and Richard Montgomerie.

These two had come together when Mal Loye was undone in the

morning by the low bounce and top-edged an attempted pull. Warren Higgs took the catch but later had to leave the field with back spasms and was replaced behind the stumps by Fairbrother.

Bailey, missed by Fairbrother at slip off Gary Yates when he had eight, and Montgomerie added 91 in 40 overs before Keedy, switching to the Warwick Road end, got them both. Bailey, having reached 58, pushed forward and edged to silly point and, four overs later, Montgomerie, whose painstaking 49 came from 173 balls, was also beaten by spin and Jason Gallian took a comfortable catch at slip.

Curran then took the initiative for Northamptonshire. His first scoring shot was a straight lofted six off Keedy and he timed the ball well enough to stroke six more boundaries on his way to a 70-ball half-century. He had one let-off, on 21, when Peter Martin failed to hold a sharp return catch and later rubbed salt in the wound by hitting him straight for a low flat six, the shot of the day.

Curran, who raised the hundred partnership with Tony Penberthy by pulling Martin for successive boundaries, was making baiting look easy but, at the other end, his partner never looked at ease. He reached 32, and the partnership 117, but it was no surprise when he gleefully greeted the introduction of Steve Tinchard by smashing his very occasional medium pace straight to Yates in the covers.

Somerset cursing luck with weather

By Our Sports Staff

IT WILL rain for 30 days, a local sage predicted at Taunton yesterday morning. By the time play was called off at 2.30pm on the opening day of Somerset's championship match against Yorkshire, it seemed a month's water had poured from the sky in half an hour.

The outfield was dotted with puddles, and there was no point in the umpires "having a look" later. It was so wet that, even if the weather improves, play may not resume on time today.

Only 22 overs were possible in that first session because heavy rain overnight meant that play started 45 minutes late. Yorkshire chose to bat and, though they might not regret the decision, they will regret the way they played. Both openers went inside three overs, with Martyn Moxon scoreless on his first championship appearance of the season.

The former captain fell to Kevin Shine while Andrew Cadick, in an impressive ten-over spell, removed Michael Vaughan. David Byas made 18 before he shouldered arms to Graham Rose and was bowled. With such a strong attack, Somerset's championship potential is obvious but they are going to need better luck with the weather. Their first three games were washed out when they were in powerful positions.

Warwickshire and Middlesex could be excused for feeling particularly frustrated at Edgbaston, where there was no play even though no rain fell after 10am. There were four inspections by the umpires before hope was abandoned. But why had the famous Brumbrella mobile cover not been used?

Denzil Amiss, Warwickshire's chief executive, said: "We left it off deliberately to help our preparations for the Test match, which starts in just over a fortnight."

"We could not have played in the morning because the outfield was so wet. We might have played in the afternoon but everyone knows of our concern about preparing the best possible surface for the Test. We are trying to give the square every chance."

Steve Rouse (the head groundsman) will probably use the Brumbrella more sparingly in the future. It could have worked against us in the past in keeping rain off the soil. I know we can use sprinklers, but they don't give us the natural nutrients we get from rainfall."

Durham, having lost a lucrative one-day match against the Australians on Tuesday because of rain, were out luck again yesterday when the opening day of the game against Worcestershire was washed out.

Also inactive were Gloucestershire, the championship leaders, and Essex, who will hope to launch the King's School, Gloucester, festival week today and Leicestershire, the title-holders, who are entertaining Surrey at Grace Road.

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CRICKET: DERBYSHIRE CAPTAIN EMPHASISES AUSTRALIA'S DEPTH OF TALENT

Jones takes the lead with Clarke in support

BY IVO TENNANT

TRENT BRIDGE (first day of four): Derbyshire have scored 283 for five wickets against Nottinghamshire

THIS was a day for the accumulator, the acquisitive run-getter. That nobody made more of it than Dean Jones, an Australian whose reputation was forged in the one-day game, says much about his character and, indeed, something about why Derbyshire wanted him to be their captain. In 92 overs' batting, they reached 283 for five, which tells its own story, too.

This great ground, which is to have around £4.2 million from the Lottery Sports Fund spent on it, was virtually empty yesterday. Jones, though, is not a cricketer in need of any motivation. When bad light brought about the close of play half an hour early, he was unbeaten with 71, having batted in all for 243 minutes. There were runs, too, for Vince Clarke, who made the kind of contribution that Derbyshire were looking for when they acquired him from Leicestershire.

It is when one notes that Jones is younger than his compatriot, David Boon, and has played in half the number of Test matches, that Australia's strength becomes even more apparent. Hayden, Moody, Boon, Law and Jones would make for a batting order England would appreciate. And field: They would all have been quite capable of

making a contribution at the highest level this summer.

Jones is not one to concern himself with that now. Nor with the grim weather, murky light and pally attendance he found yesterday. He even has a good word to say about Derby, and there are not many cricketers who do. He batted here with the utmost watchfulness, collecting runs rather than imposing himself on what, in the continued absence of Mohammad Zahid, is not a strong attack.

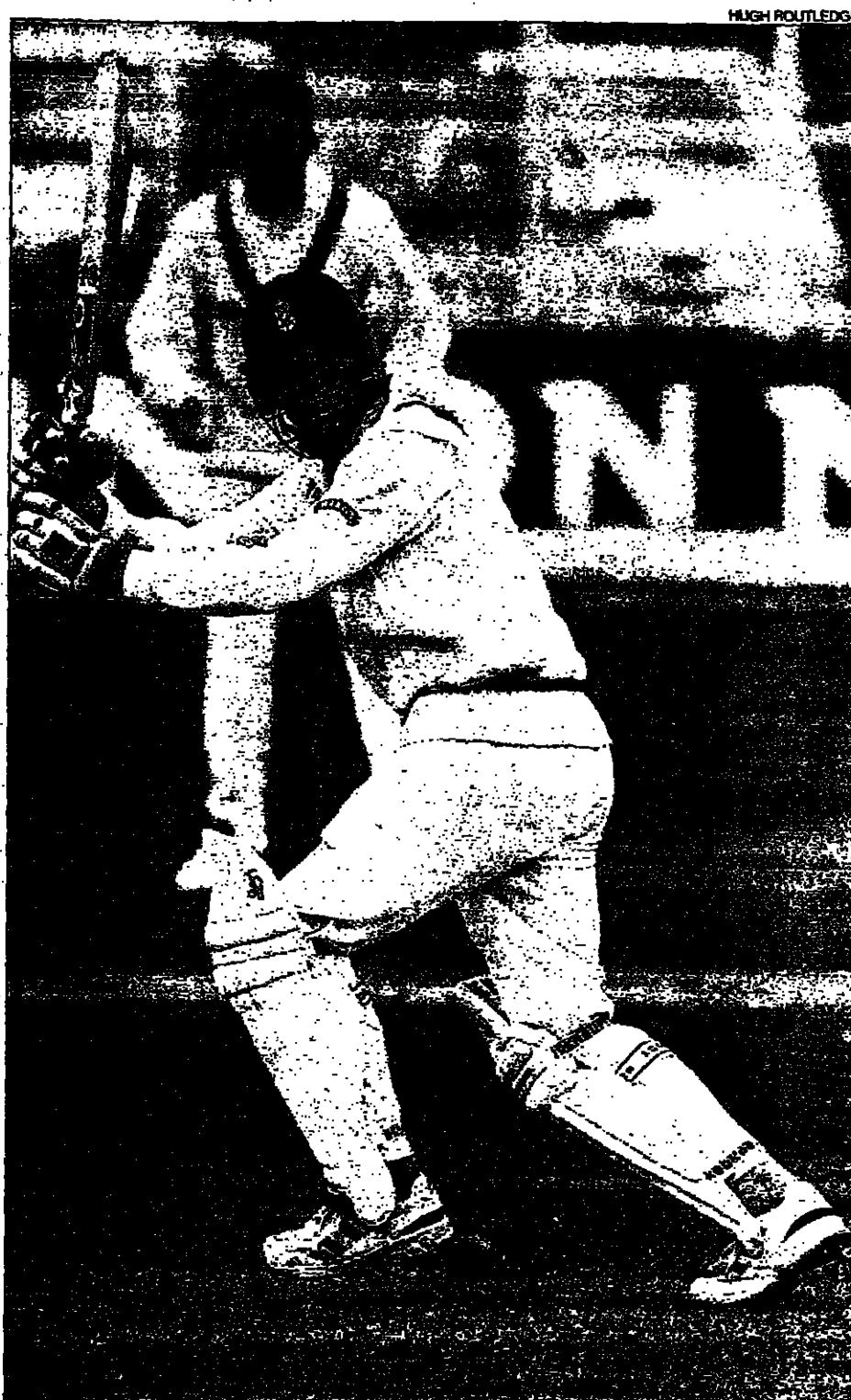
Nothing about the remainder of the batting, other than when Clarke came in late in the day, was particularly distinguished. The pitch was of the hue that Ron Allsopp used to prepare for Hadlee and Rice, but the reality was that it was slow and better suited to the likes of Archer and Bowen, rather than anybody who tried to bowl with more zip. There was just enough movement to concern all the upper order.

Barnett, who became the first Derbyshire cricketer to score 2,000 runs against one county, was well taken by Noon off Bowen, flicking at a ball down the leg side. It was, for a batsman, the most unsatisfactory kind of dismissal. Rollins grafted admirably until he, too, was caught at the wicket. Archer wobbling the ball around just enough to induce an edge.

Adams struck the ball in that forceful way of his until, having made 39, he drove at a wide one from Franks and was missed by Noon. The chance was one of those that was going to first slip. Seemingly disconcerted by this, Adams aimed to pull Bowen through mid-wicket and was caught at mid-off.

Another Australian in this Derbyshire side, Caesar (like Clarke, he qualifies for England), ill-advisedly made to cut as a wide one from Bowen, and was dismissed by Noon. Clarke came in and hit the ball more positively than anybody. His half-century came off 84 balls and included eight fours. He is proving to be a fair acquisition, for he can also bowl useful leg spin.

His captain, whose innings included six fours, spurred him on before the gloaming descended.



Jones accumulates another four runs on his way to 71 not out yesterday

Anwar surpasses Richards

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

SAEED ANWAR, the Pakistani opening batsman, made 194, the highest individual score in international one-day cricket, as his side ran up a massive 327 for five against India in an Independence Cup match in Madras yesterday.

The 28-year-old left-hander overcame a cramped and the handicap of batting with a runner to hit five sixes and 22 fours as he surpassed the record of 189 not out, set by Vivian Richards against England at Old Trafford in 1984.

Anwar faced 147 balls before his dismissal in the 47th over after the Pakistan captain,

Ramiz Raja, had won the toss. Although it was Anwar's first one-day century against India it was his twelfth in all.

Anwar put on 89 for the second wicket with his captain after the early departure of Shahid Afridi, who returned to act as a runner soon after Anwar had passed his half-century. Ijaz Ahmed contributed 39 to a third wicket partnership of 116.

When Anwar reached three figures he joined Sachin Tendulkar, India's captain, in second place in the list of leading one-day century-makers, behind Desmond Haynes, of West Indies, who has 17.

Three of Anwar's sixes came off successive deliveries from the leg spinner, Anil Kumble, usually a restrictive bowler, in an over that cost 26 runs. He finally fell to a tired pull off Tendulkar that resulted in a catch for Saurav Ganguly at fine leg.

Anwar was given a standing ovation by a crowd of 50,000, who saw Inzamam-ul-Haq inflict further heavy punishment as he raced to 39 not out to take Pakistan past 300.

Sri Lanka, the holders of the World Cup, will meet the winners of the match in the best-of-three final, starting on Saturday.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Larder goes as Sheffield slide down the table

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

PHIL LARDER, the Great Britain coach, became the seventh Super League coach to lose his job since the start of the season when he parted company with Sheffield Eagles by mutual consent last night.

Larder's departure follows a series of disappointing results since he took over last November, which have left Sheffield struggling at ninth place in the league. Sheffield promoted John Kear, Larder's assistant and the Great Britain Academy team coach, to the senior position, two weeks before the start of the world club championship.

Terry Sharman, the Sheffield chief executive, said the timing was particularly unfortunate after the club's recent public flotation. "The board felt it had to deal with our recent poor performances by making this difficult decision," he said.

Larder and Kear took over at Sheffield last year after the departure of Gary Hetherington to Leeds as chief executive. The Eagles achieved only their third win, at Paris Saint-Germain, last weekend, but Larder's fate was apparently sealed before then.

Although still the Britain coach, it is unlikely Larder will be retained in that post. Joe Lydon, the Rugby Football League technical director, is compiling a short list, but two of the candidates, John Joyner and Andy Goodway, have been among the Super League coaching casualties. Goodway, however, will assume control at Paris this weekend.

After dropping three points in two matches, St Helens must defy indifferent form and a worrying injury toll at Salford tonight in order to maintain their interest in retaining the title. It is the first of three important games in 11 days for them, with Wigan due at Knowsley Road next Monday and a visit to Halifax.

St Helens, five points adrift of Bradford Bulls at the top, are without four international players. Confirmation that Tommy Markey, who was injured playing for Ireland last week, requires a second knee reconstruction in two years, means that Karl Hammonds' switch from loose forward to stand-off half is delayed.

Paul Newlove and Alan Hunt, recovering from hamstring tears, might be fit for the visit of Auckland Warriors, on June 6.

ATHLETICS

Christie back in British vest for final time

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

FOR the good folk of Gateshead who bought tickets to watch the post-Olympic athletics international in their hometown last August, on the understanding that it was to be Linford Christie's last appearance in a Great Britain vest, he is advised: do not bother to keep the tickets for historic or sentimental value. Christie will be named today as the British men's team captain for the European Cup in Munich next month.

It is appropriate that Christie, through his best years as a sprinter, has worn the logo of a cat on his clothing, for there is nothing that he appears to like more than to play cat and mouse. He said in 1995 that he would retire when the season was over. Then, having said last summer that 1997 would be his last in competitive athletics, except for a handful of club fixtures and other low-key events, he chose the evening of the Gateshead meeting to announce that he would be available for the European Cup.

We wondered then what to believe, but now his intentions are clear. "That will be my last British appearance," Christie said of his Munich date, one which, incidentally, sees British athletes give service to their country free of charge. That is a lot of free service from Christie over the years. Nobody has a better European Cup record. His 11 individual victories, at 100 and 200 metres, is a record for the competition and he has never been beaten.

Christie, now 37, has no intention of going to the world championships in Athens in August and, underlining the point, the British Athletic Federation (BAF) will further announce today that Christie's successor will take over immediately after the European Cup. Roger Black, Britain's 400 metres Olympic silver medal-winner, will fill the role for the remainder of the season and probably beyond. Sally Gunnell remains the women's captain. Although the British Athletics Association recommended to the BAF that Black should begin the season as captain, it would be fitting if Britain, after finishing runners-up in five consecutive European Cup meetings, could win for the first time since Christie's opening year as captain.

However, one question the disciplinary nerve of the BAF when it appoints as captain an

athlete who refused to show the team sponsor's logo in the last European Cup.

At the other end of the scale to the 100 metres, Jon Brown, Britain's No 1 cross country and 10,000 metres runner, is to make his marathon debut in Chicago on October 19. Brown, who says there is nobody in world marathon running who impresses him, sees Chicago as his first step to an Olympic medal at Sydney 2000.

"There is a lot of room to do well at the top," Brown, the European cross country champion and Olympic 10,000 metres finalist, said. "There are good people around but there is nobody with exceptional ability." Saying that he thought he would be better than Martin Fiz, the world champion, from Spain, Brown said: "I am pretty sure I will



Black to follow Christie

not have any problems with the event."

While Richard Nerurkar, Paul Evans and Eamonn Martin have had their big race successes, none has won an international championship marathon medal. If Brown is to prove as devastating at the event as he seems to think he will, Chicago will provide a stiff first test.

Paul Evans will be defending the Chicago title he won last year, when he became only the third Briton to break the 29-minute barrier. As Carey Pinkowski, the race director, has also signed Todd Williams, on whom the United States is pinning as much hope as Britain is on Brown, Chicago can boast a fascinating line-up.

Evans said: "Carey has built quite a field, so I am going to have to run faster than last year to win." Pinkowski said: "The foundation has been laid for a very fast race."

THE TIMES ITC

The ITC leaderboard published yesterday included some incorrect scores. To check your scores and position in the league call the ITC check line on:

0891 884 624
(0990 100 349 outside UK)

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE county championship

Glamorgan v Hampshire

CARDIFF (first day of four): Glamorgan won 100-100. Hampshire have scored 84 for one wicket against Glamorgan.

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings
G W White c James b Waite ... 23
M J Maynard not out ... 2
K D James not out ... 2
Edna (6.3, 15.6, 15.2) ... 11

GLAMORGAN: First Innings
J P Statham, R A Smith, W S Kneale, T A Noyes, S D Lloyd, J N B Bawl, S M Migan and G Green to bat
11-15-20: Thomas 9-0-15-0, 2-10-1-0
16-20: Thomas 9-0-15-0, 2-10-1-0
17-20: Thomas 9-0-15-0, 2-10-1-0
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271-20: Thomas 9-0



Paris 1924 and Nurmi strolls to another Olympic gold. Seventy-three years on, Finland is celebrating the centenary of the great runner's birth

Legend of Nurmi will run and run

If you need a break from the endless stories of drugs, money and ballroom dancing that seem to dominate sport this week, perhaps you should look at Finland. There they are devoting the whole year to celebrating a sporting legend who was born a century ago and whose achievements provide a glimpse of Finland's golden athletics era between the two world wars.

In sport, world record-holders come and go, many of them remembered only as entries in a statistical summary, but in athletics, and in Finland, there is one man whose reputation is indestructible — Paavo Nurmi.

The celebrations, marking the centenary of his birth in 1897, began with a full-scale banquet in January and will climax with a centenary week, early next month, including a two-day athletics championship and the inauguration of the Nurmi stadium in Turku, the city of his birth.

It is futile to try to work out who has been the greatest runner or the best sportsman of all time, but the Finns have no doubt. During his track career, which lasted from 1913 to 1924, he won nine Olympic gold medals and set so many world records that it is impossible to count them exactly (there were 28 in one ten-year period). In the 1920s he ranked with film stars as one of the world's best-known personalities. In Finland he still is.

He was the son of a carpenter and had fallen in love with running by the age of 12. He made a remarkable decision, for one so young, that he would train easily but regularly for five years and then add quality and quantity. He began by running three or four times a week, usually in the forests. He was always an innovator and would sometimes use trains as pacemakers for speed work. At 13 he became an errand boy and often had to spend hours pushing carts up a hill to Turku railway station. This gave him great leg strength.

The young Nurmi became obsessed with athletics. He briefly became a vegetarian, he neither smoked nor drank and would not touch coffee or tea. He was unbeaten on the track until after he had completed his national service and was sent as national champion to the 1920 Olympic Games in Antwerp. He suffered from seasickness on the journey and was beaten into second place in the 5,000 metres by Joseph Guillemot, of France. Three days later, in the 10,000 metres, Nurmi evened the score.

He worked out that faulty pace



judgment had cost him the 5,000 metres and set out to develop a pattern of level-pace running that would confound any opposition. He took to carrying a stopwatch in his hand, which became his trademark in training and races. He would peer into his palm, as if for inspiration, so that many believed it was not a watch at all, but a silver medal in the cross-country, run in a heartbeat. Of the 39 starters, only 15 finished and 18 ended up in hospital.

In 1925 he toured the United States, where he raced 55 times in five months and was only beaten twice. When he dropped out of an indoor 5,000 metres, suffering from indigestion, rumours swept Finland that Nurmi had died.

There could be no other explanation for him not finishing a race.

He took gold in the Olympic 10,000 metres in Amsterdam in 1928, but already injury and rheumatism were troubling him. He dreamt of a grand finale to his career with victory in the 1932 Olympic marathon in Los Angeles but, on the eve of the Games, the International Olympic Committee, under pressure from his Swedish rivals, suspended him for allegedly taking excessive expenses during a trip to Germany.

Nurmi returned home to run as a "national amateur" but became increasingly bitter and reclusive. He had always been a loner, and though he married in 1932, his wife, Syvi, was seeking a divorce before the marriage was 18 months old. The Finnish people, though, continued to love him.

Six years ago a Swedish newspaper made a vain attempt to smear Nurmi's name with a story that a health drink, endorsed by him in the 1930s and containing the extract of bull's testicles, had in it traces of testosterone, and that this might have been his secret.

Rubbish, of course. Nurmi's secret was that his training methods were decades ahead of his rivals. As the Finnish people enjoy their Year of Nurmi, they know that theirs is one legend that will keep on running.

JOHN BRYANT

RUGBY UNION: LEONARD AT THE HELM AS JOHNSON MISSES OPENING MATCH OF LIONS TOUR

Rodber gets chance to make impression

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN DURBAN

TIM RODBER was yesterday named in the British Isles team for the first match of the tour of South Africa, against an Eastern Province Invitation XV on Saturday. The Northampton No 8 will play at the Boet Erasmus stadium in Port Elizabeth, where he

was sent off during an England tour three years ago.

Ironically, Rodber was one of two players (Tim Stimpson being the other) suffering from a stomach ailment and unable to train at King's Park here, the first time a match XV has run together against their tour colleagues in a very physical workout. Although Fran Cotton, the manager, dismissed the past as irrelevant in terms

of selection for the Lions, there is no doubt that a good display on the ground where he lost his temper will set Rodber up for future tests.

In 1994, he had been part of an England team that excelled in beating South Africa in Pretoria. Three days later, he came on as a replacement against Eastern Province and, after 18 minutes, was involved in a violent exchange with

Simon Tremain, the flanker from New Zealand, which resulted in both being sent off. Surprisingly, no suspension was imposed but Rodber was a shadow of his normal self in the second international the next Saturday.

The 27-year-old Army officer will form part of an all-England back row, in a team led by Jason Leonard. "I don't think this game will be a problem for Tim," Leonard said. "It's not in his nature to play like that."

"It was a very hard game, not very well refereed, between two sides neither of them prepared to take a backwards step. Tim's very strong mentally, one of the strongest people I know in that respect. He knows what he has to do but also it will be an important game for everyone. The captaincy is an honour for me but it's a massive honour for all those players who have the responsibility of getting the tour off to a good start."

Leonard, who captained England against Argentina last December, was an obvious choice in the planned absence of Martin Johnson. Given the number of games he played during the domestic season, the tour captain was one of several players always likely to be given this Satur-

day off. "We want all the frontline players to be fresh and fit when we arrive at the Tests," Cotton said.

That has not prevented the selection at half back of Robert Howley and Gregor Townsend, who would probably be the first choice of Ian McGeechan, the coach, at this stage of the tour. There may have been a temptation to shield Howley, in particular,

from what will be a far from genteel encounter, but if they are to form an effective combination, the players they set about it the better.

The side for Saturday includes nine players who could well be involved in the first international with South Africa, on June 21.

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OUR RESTAURANTS ARE
OPEN THIS WEEKEND.
(YET ANOTHER
BANK HOLIDAY THAT'S
NOT GOING TO
BE LONG ENOUGH.)

Opening Hours.

Saturday 10am-6pm.

Monday 10am-6pm.

At Harrods, we like to cater for a wide range of tastes. On the Ground Floor, you'll find everything from the Champagne and Oyster bar to our Pizzeria, serving pizzas from authentic wood-fired brick ovens. For a more traditional flavour, try the Georgian Restaurant on the Fourth Floor for luncheon or afternoon tea. Or if you're a sports fan, you're sure to enjoy the climb to the Sports Cafe on the Fifth Floor for a healthy meal surrounded by sporting memorabilia. Indeed, after deciding where to eat, choosing what else to buy will seem positively easy.

Harrods

Harrods Ltd., Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7NL. Tel 0171-730 1231.

TELEVISION CHOICE

A comical love triangle

My Wonderful Life: Kiss and Tell
ITV, 8.30pm

Simon Nye's sitcom is turning out to be less hard-edged than it promised. Donna (a feisty performance from Emma Wray) is still the single mother trying to hold down a job while bringing up two young daughters. She still contributes to her own misfortunes, undercutting our natural sympathy for one of life's victims. But tonight's episode, at least, puts social comment aside in favour of less challenging humour. Donna has two men in her life and cannot decide between them. The joke is taken a stage further as she tries to play one off against the other and comes close to losing both. The writer, Amanda Swift, charts this in a well-structured scenario that also explores Donna's attempts to wean her children off their obsessive television watching. But it is gender humour than was suggested by the opening episode.

Bodyguards
ITV, 9.00pm

The plot is the usual one. A high-profile figure with deadly enemies arrives in London and the close protection team has to ensure that he survives the visit in one piece. As usual, too, lovely Liz (Louise Lombard) and disby Ian (Sean Pertwee) almost make a hash of it. John Bowe plays a dodgy businessman based in Switzerland who files in to a large gun is determined to stop him. Arabs, Israelis, MI5 and a traitor in the entrepreneur's own camp are variously suspected of being the gunman's paymaster. But although the scenario has faint echoes of the arms-for-Iraq episode, it is assured that this is merely a peg. Action, not politics, and simple tales of goodies and baddies: are what this show is about. But it delivers its limited agenda with professional polish.

Short and Carries: It's Not Unusual
Channel 4, 9.45pm

A new series of short films by emerging talents opens with a piece that has already been honoured with a Bath award. And deservedly so, for the writer, Asmaa Pirzada, and director, Kfir Yefet, have used a simple premise, a woman's obsession with a pop star, to fashion a witty and perceptive



Angus Deayton on lying (BBC1, 10.20pm)

drama that says a lot in its 11 minutes. Meera Syal plays a London cabbie and Tom Jones is her idol, much to the disgust of her schoolgirl daughter. Cab rides are dominated by Tom Jones tapes, played at full volume. But having admired her idol so long from afar, this ordinary single mother from Acton suddenly has the chance to deliver a package to his London hotel. Her dazed reaction, ridiculous attempt to dress up for the occasion and embarrassment in fulfilling the task are the prelude to the perfect punchline.

The Lying Game: Natural Born Fibbers
BBC1, 10.20pm

We are all cheats, claims Angus Deayton, providing we can get away with it. Perhaps not all of us. Take the Alcock, father and son anglers. Dad, who would never dream of doing anything underhand, is a consistent runner-up. Alcock junior, however, the role and is a champion, though he admits to having a conscience about it. The star of the film, though, is 75-year-old Sid Claxton from Essex. Badly treated, as he saw it, by a high street bank, he took his revenge by starting a series of bogus accounts using the names of his pets. He has run up credit card debts of more than £100,000 and someone emerged unscathed. But as if to assure us that fiddling does not always pay, Deayton introduces us to a woman who shows guinea pigs. Unlike some fellow competitors, she sticks rigidly to the rules. She still wins. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

On The Ropes
Radio 4, 9.30am

I well recall the excitement in the offices of *The Times* on March 23, 1989, when someone announced that American scientists had discovered the secret of cold fusion. This sounded tremendously important, even though it was several hours before I half understood what it meant. Therefore it was a relief to find, a few days later, that scientists at Utah University might not have quite got it right, even though they were the ones who had discovered it. No one could re-create the experiment and a Congressional committee concluded that cold fusion was as elusive as ever. In this programme, John Humphrys meets one of the scientists, Professor Martin Fleischmann, and discovers why he put his reputation on the line.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo White 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Kevin Greening 6.15pm 6.30pm The 10.00pm 10.30pm 10.50pm 11.00pm 11.30pm 11.50pm 12.00pm 12.30pm 12.50pm 1.00pm 1.30pm 1.50pm 2.00pm 2.30pm 2.50pm 3.00pm 3.30pm 3.50pm 4.00pm 4.30pm 4.50pm 5.00pm 5.30pm 5.50pm 6.00pm 6.30pm 6.50pm 7.00pm 7.30pm 7.50pm 8.00pm 8.30pm 8.50pm 9.00pm 9.30pm 9.50pm 10.00pm 10.30pm 10.50pm 11.00pm 11.30pm 11.50pm 12.00pm 12.30pm 12.50pm 1.00pm 1.30pm 1.50pm 2.00pm 2.30pm 2.50pm 3.00pm 3.30pm 3.50pm 4.00pm 4.30pm 4.50pm 5.00pm 5.30pm 5.50pm 6.00pm 6.30pm 6.50pm 7.00pm 7.30pm 7.50pm 8.00pm 8.30pm 8.50pm 9.00pm 9.30pm 9.50pm 10.00pm 10.30pm 10.50pm 11.00pm 11.30pm 11.50pm 12.00pm 12.30pm 12.50pm 1.00pm 1.30pm 1.50pm 2.00pm 2.30pm 2.50pm 3.00pm 3.30pm 3.50pm 4.00pm 4.30pm 4.50pm 5.00pm 5.30pm 5.50pm 6.00pm 6.30pm 6.50pm 7.00pm 7.30pm 7.50pm 8.00pm 8.30pm 8.50pm 9.00pm 9.30pm 9.50pm 10.00pm 10.30pm 10.50pm 11.00pm 11.30pm 11.50pm 12.00pm 12.30pm 12.50pm 1.00pm 1.30pm 1.50pm 2.00pm 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In the age of stippling, the scumbler is king

Admit it. You know there is something important missing in your life. It is it (a) eight hours' sleep a night? (b) a Swiss bank account? (c) a new daily television programme that teaches you how to decorate your home on a shoestring budget using stylish but practical tips from experts whose lives will be complete if they can "inspire people to pick up a paintbrush and have a go at interior design"? Did you tick (c)? You did? Then rejoice, because *Real Rooms* (BBC2) has arrived.

Not that long ago, decorating consisted of emulating the walls and then rearranging your lamps in a way that drew attention from the patches you missed when you were painting and watching telly at the same time.

But we are all David Hicks now. Today, the fast crowd talk about scumbling and hand-mixed paints the way they once used to talk

about wood ovens and salted capers. Nowadays, no area of the house is too small or too unimportant to receive forensic attention from the authors of those decorating manuals flooding into your local bookshop. There is even a book called *Decorating Entrances, Stairways and Landings*. Some publisher must already be working on *Making The Most Of That Bit Between The Lavatory And The Loo Brush*. While you are waiting for it to arrive, *Real Rooms* must keep your decorating fever at bay.

Yesterday, the programme's decorator hit squad attacked Mary Wooliscroft's bathroom. It has been specially adapted to cope with her multiple sclerosis, but Mary finds the room too white and clinical. She has a budget of £250 and a hankering for the tropical colours of the rainforest. In just three days, three professionals - including a mural artist - turned her airy bathroom into something

green and swamplike with the closing scenes of *Apocalypse Now*.

The budget? Mary's £250 would barely have met the cost of materials, let alone the fancy artist. The hand-painted loo seat would have cost £250 alone; the palm-tree-and-parrots mural several times that, which made the project about as "real" as Pamela Anderson's cleavage.

To her credit, when Mary caught sight of her new bathroom, she refrained from croaking "The horror, the horror!" like Marlon Brando. But she did weep. Tears of joy, no doubt. But you couldn't help feeling that the BBC - by leading her, unwarned, into this *Heart Of Darkness* - was taking a risk, given that Mary suffers from epilepsy, too.

For most of us, interior design is an armchair hobby; we read an article about white-walled mini-

malism and make a mental note to adopt this style just as soon as we have adopted some friends who promise only to wear white linen when they come to visit. But *Crimewatch* UK's *Hot Property* (BBC1) was about people who like other people's interior design so much, they steal it. Instantly may be the sincerest form of flattery, but burglary is the cheapest.

Jill Dando led us through a

special roadshow of stolen property that the Metropolitan Police is trying to reunite with its former owners. The police own two London warehouses full of stolen goods: the bigger of the two stocks a hoard worth £40 million. Every now and then they put the hoard on show. So far £2,000 have visited this roadshow. About 100 items remain for former owners every day.

But as all these treasure-hunters arrived to reclaim their candlesticks, you realised why the police are left holding this stuff: the former owners are too busy celebrating the fact that they will never again have to find shelf-room for those ugly wedding presents. The astonishing thing is not that a burglar had thought most of these objects worth stealing, but that an adult of sound mind thought them worth buying in the first place.

The most intriguing exhibit was a cache of 60 sets of church vestments, threaded with gold and

silver, some dating from the 18th century. Why has nobody noticed they are missing and come along to reclaim them?

Maybe the victim of this robbery is shy about reclaiming his property because he knows Jill Dando will immediately swoop and ask: "How does it feel to have it back?" How does Jill think they feel? "Actually Jill, having driven all the way from Carlisle, I was naturally hoping I wouldn't recognise anything. But just my bad luck, I've gone and spotted my grandmother's ring." What would we make of Jeremy Paxman if, when interviewing Tony Blair, he asked: "So tell us, Tony, are you pleased the general election went your way?"

In his latest visit through America's ghastly rhinestone in Planet Stewbizz (Channel 4), Mark Lamarr introduced us to Doctor Dave and Athletic Al. Dave

and Al are America's latest answer to the national shortage of unmarried, heterosexual men. Dave is a boyfriend-in-a-box. So is Al. For your \$15, you could also choose a greetings-card-sized box containing everything you (and your solicitous relatives) might want to know about Firefighter Frank, Cowboy Clint or Corporate Craig. The boxes even contain love letters from your chap, along with a photo and details of his parents' names, his salary, his hobbies, and which car he drives.

Lamarr was unimpressed by Dave's goal in life, which is "to have a successful practice in a mid-sized town". But on the bright side, if you are careless enough to lose Dave, you will not have to attend a Jill Dando roadshow to recover him. You just buy a replacement. Athletic Al is off 3in and weighs 250lb. Might make a nice change. He could even turn out to be a dab hand at stippling.

REVIEW

Joe Joseph

malism and make a mental note to adopt this style just as soon as we have adopted some friends who promise only to wear white linen when they come to visit. But *Crimewatch* UK's *Hot Property* (BBC1) was about people who like other people's interior design so much, they steal it. Instantly may be the sincerest form of flattery, but burglary is the cheapest.

Jill Dando led us through a

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (11087)
 - 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (1) (32463)
 - 9.00am Breakfast News Extra (1) (380036)
 - 9.50am Style Challenge (8271613)
 - 9.55am Killy (7699261)
 - 10.30am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (51445)
 - 11.00am News (1) (7440005)
 - 11.05am The Great Escape (7807006)
 - 11.35am Real Rooms (9369880)
 - 12.00pm News (1) (8073777)
 - 12.05pm Call My Bluff (8715483)
 - 12.35pm The Practice (8155483)
 - 1.00pm News (1) (755483)
 - 1.30pm Regional News and weather (8490398)
 - 1.40pm The Weather Show (9669483)
 - 1.45pm Neighbours (4058025)
 - 2.10pm Quirky (8328087)
 - 2.55pm Through the Keyhole (6087280)
 - 3.20pm Connoisseurs' Collections (6121551)
 - 3.30pm Playdays (8940551) 3.50pm Postman Pat (6451445) 4.05pm Fats Cat (7037377)
 - 4.20pm Julia Jelby and Hamlet Hyde (7213342) 4.35pm Return to Jupiter (1025551) 5.00pm Newsnight (1) (4210493)
 - 5.10pm No Sweat (8098203)
 - 5.35pm Neighbours (1) (790209)
 - 6.00pm News (1) and weather (919)
 - 6.30pm Regional News (241)
 - 7.00pm Watchdog Healthcheck Alice Bear with John Nicolson, Angela Rippon and Toyah Wilcock (9484)
 - 7.30pm EastEnders Grant receives unwelcome advice from Peggy. Mark has some distressing news for Ruth and Lorraine's visit to see Joe turns into a nightmare (1) (483)
 - 8.00pm Animal Hospital Steve Knight encounters a herd of wild boar while accompanying farm vet Ian Baker on his rounds. Plus: an update on Blossom, a hearing dog for the deaf as she settles in with her new owner. Presented by Rolf Harris (1) (2584)
 - 8.30pm Keeping Mum Andrew wants Peggy to change her will in his favour, but she ends up giving him more than he anticipated. Comedy, starring Stephanie Cole (1) (4919)
 - 9.00pm News (1) and weather (3071)
 - 9.30pm 999 A 78-year-old man left fighting for his life after being impaled through the head with a pool cue, and a promising young rugby player who faced the prospect of losing his leg. Plus: a family struck by disaster while on holiday in Sicily, and an amateur pilot's battle to stop his malfunctioning plane plummeting to the ground (1) (589071)
 - 10.20pm The Lying Game Angus Deayton explores modern notions of fair play (1) (251700)
 - 10.55pm Question Time David Dimbleby's guests include Michael Howard, MP, and Polly Toynbee (1) (470532)
 - 11.00pm A Climate for Killing (1980) with John Beck, Steven Bauer, Mike Starr. A big-city investigator is brought in to help a small-town cop solve a grisly murder, and tells for his daughter. Directed by J.S. Cardone (1) (40439)
 - 1.40am Weather (3861830)
- VideoPlus+ and the Video Codes**
- The numbers next to each programme listing are VideoPlus+ codes. These allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ remote. Tap in the Video Plus Code for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ (V) and Video Recorder are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

- BBC2**
- 6.00am Open University: The Restless Pump How the human heart works (8155551) 6.25pm Breathes of Life (8155558) 6.50pm Mammals in Water (8566071)
 - 7.15pm News (1) (3521261) 7.30pm Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (870613) 7.55pm Blue Peter (1) (1760071) 8.20pm Fireman Sam (8637208)
 - 8.35pm The Record (3034445) 9.00pm Developing World (8362919) 9.25pm The Geography Programme (387445) 9.45pm Watch Out (7271888) 10.00pm Teletubbies (94735) 10.30pm Storyline (6454551) 10.45pm The Experimenter (4458938)
 - 11.05pm Space Ark (7358071) 11.15pm Zig Zag Special (6302718) 11.35pm Landmarks: Britain Since 1950 (1138982) 12.00pm Teaching Today (73887) 12.30pm Working Lunch (65936) 1.00pm Lifestyles (8897735) 1.35pm Job Bank (8649720) 1.45pm Numberline (86477445) 2.00pm Fireman Sam (1) (1030352)
 - 2.10pm The Flying Vet 2.30pm The Mill's Life (532) 3.00pm News (1) (8125377) 3.05pm Wheelchair with Nick Ross (8719358) 3.55pm News (1) (5204551) 4.00pm Blockbusters (5118700) 4.25pm Ready, Steady, Cook (5291067) 4.55pm Esther (1016613) 5.30pm Today's the Day (648)
 - 6.00pm Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1) (733822)
 - 6.45pm Animated 2 (107251)
- East: Biting the Bullet**
- The Nepalese Gurkhas are being integrated into the British Army, offered near party with British troops in conditions of employment, but their pension entitlement is a fraction of other soldiers'. Martin Bashir reports (1) (7006)
- 7.30pm Out and About**
- A guide to the region's leisure activities (975) WALEX: Six Of One
- 8.00pm International Cricket - England v Australia**
- Tony Lewis introduces highlights of the first of three Test matches one-day internationals (1919)
- 9.00pm Absolutely Fabulous**
- Pasty and Edna have a few language problems while holidaying in France (1) (1613)
- 9.30pm This Life**
- Contemporary London drama. Farley buys some dope, Milly can't decide whether to join O'Donnell on a trip to France (1) (51718)
- 10.15pm A Woman Called Smith**
- IVF donor Alison Smith wanted to be a midwife but found herself in the business of hosting lingerie parties (309193)
- 10.30pm Newsnight (1)**
- (582731)
- 11.15pm Late Review**
- 100th edition (363919)
- 12.00pm The Midnight Hour**
- (11897)
- 12.30pm Learning Zone: The Black Triangle**
- (81168) 1.00pm Representing the People (92236) 2.00pm PETV: Human Biology (81615) 4.00pm Languages: Speaking City (1) (815718) 4.00pm Languages: Speaking City (1) (815718) 4.00pm Languages: Speaking City (1) (815718) 5.00pm-5.59pm Business and Work (61551)

- HTV**
- 6.00am GMTV (4453754)
 - 9.25pm Supermarket Sweep (1) (6352532)
 - 9.55pm Regional News (3757687)
 - 10.00pm The Time, the Place (81261)
 - 10.30pm This Morning (6260838)
 - 12.20pm Regional News (8066261)
 - 12.30pm News (1) and weather (9142280)
 - 12.55pm Wish You Were Here? (9054071) 1.25pm Home and Away (1) (70215377) 1.50pm Afternoon Live (4058025) 2.50pm Vanessa (1) (40750629) 2.50pm Afternoon Live (2472920)
 - 3.20pm News (1) (6132667)
 - 3.25pm Regional News (1) (6151938)
 - 3.30pm The Riddlers (1) (6485025) 3.40pm Wizzards (1) (7006352) 3.50pm Rupert (894735) 4.15pm Mike and Angelo. Last in series (1) (4818174) 4.40pm Sweet (1) (8227667)
 - 5.10pm A Country Practice (7705193)
 - 5.40pm News (1) and weather (933087)
 - 6.00pm Home and Away (1) (705193)
 - 6.25pm HTV West Tonight (688193)
 - 6.30pm The West Tonight (1) (667)
- Emmerdale**
- Frank receives a shock when Kim turns up out of the blue (1) (2025)
- 8.00pm The Bill: Black and Blue**
- A jealous nanny wreaks havoc when her employers accuse her of stealing and call in Jarvis and Keane to arrest her (1) (3280)
- 8.30pm My Wonderful Life: Kiss**
- Cider's and Ted Donna confesses she can't decide whether she fancies macho Lewis more than sensitive Roger (1) (9087)
- 9.00pm Bodyguards: Target Shaw**
- and Worrell set up a battery of sophisticated security precautions to protect a businessman due to give evidence before a government committee (1) (6209)
- 10.00pm News (1) and weather (81822)**
- 10.30pm Regional News (1) (436209)**
- 10.40pm The West This Week**
- Charting Taunton Cider's efforts to win back customers (785342)
- 11.30pm Freeze Frame**
- Crowning Glory A profile of wigmaker, Peter King, whose creations have been used in films such as *Dangerous Liaisons* and *Mars Attacks* (1) (380087)
- 11.45pm Highlander (994938)**
- 12.35pm In Bed with McInerney (389410)**
- 1.55pm Furry Business (3405410)**
- 1.35pm Cyber Cafe (3117878)**
- 2.05pm Late and Loud (2726217)**
- 3.05pm ITV Sport Classics (9319052)**
- 3.30pm The Good Sex Guide**
- Live (7589875)
- 4.30pm The Time, the Place (63323)**
- 5.00pm Garden Calendar (49255)**
- 5.30pm News (82192)**

- As HTV West except:**
- 12.55pm-1.25pm A Country Practice (9054071)
 - 5.10-5.40pm Shortland Street (7705193)
 - 6.25pm Central News (785803)
 - 10.40pm Pulling Power (947464)
 - 11.10-11.40pm Millionaires (8245622)
 - 11.40pm Highlander (82734)
 - 12.40pm Funny Business (9396781)
 - 1.10pm Ed's Night Party (9404781)
 - 1.40pm Club Night (849588)
 - 2.40pm Access All Areas (8506325)
 - 3.05pm Late and Loud (1560217)
 - 4.00pm Central Jinx '97 (8806089)
 - 5.20pm Asian Eye (8706675)
- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except:**
- 12.55pm Home and Away (8973716)
 - 1.20-1.50pm Emmerdale (22044532)
 - 5.10-5.40pm Home and Away (7705193)
 - 6.00-7.00pm Westcountry Live (15434)
 - 10.30pm Westcountry News (410261)
 - 10.45pm Moments of Madness (466209)
 - 11.15pm Roadrunner (458822)
 - 11.45pm New York News (934938)
- MERIDIAN**
- As HTV West except:**
- 12.55-1.25pm Shortland Street (9054071)
 - 5.10-5.40pm Home and Away (7705193)
 - 6.00pm Meridian Tonight (777)
 - 6.30-7.00pm Grass Roots (667)
 - 10.40pm Film: Impulse (3881808)
 - 5.00am Freescreen (49255)
- ANGLIA**
- As HTV West except:**
- 12.55-1.25pm A Country Practice (9054071)
 - 5.10-5.40pm Shortland Street (7705193)
 - 6.25pm Anglia News (785803)
 - 6.55-7.00pm What's On (631803)
 - 10.40pm The Road Show (947464)
 - 11.10pm Go Fishing (884822)
 - 11.40pm Hunter (713990)
- Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (37025)**
- 7.00pm The Big Breakfast (25193)
 - 9.00pm Bewitched (1) (75071)
 - 9.30pm School's Equinox Plus 10.25pm Geographical Eye (1) 10.45pm The English Programme Gulliver's Travels 11.30pm The English Programme (1) (469209)
 - 12.00pm House to House (68735)
 - 12.30pm Light Lunch (81603)
 - 1.30pm Druk Yul Life in Bhutan (80926261)
 - 1.50pm The Blind Goddess (1947. b/w) with Eric Portman, Hugh Williams and Michael Denison. A courtroom drama about an aristocrat accused of diverting public funds for his own use. Directed by Harold French (1) (46846025)
 - 3.25pm Soak It Up A contribution to Adult Learner's Week (1) (6122280) 3.30pm Collectors' Lot (1) (445) 4.00pm Filenote One (1) (280) 4.30pm Countdown (1) (464)
 - 5.00pm Ricki Lake (1) (2938) 5.30pm Per Rescue (1) (718)
 - 6.00pm Springhill (1) (629)
 - 6.30pm Hollyoaks Teen soap (1) (209)
 - 7.00pm Channel 4 News (1) (932071)
 - 7.55pm Soak It Up As 3.25 (1) (1) (505209)
 - 8.00pm Health Alert Shahnaz Fakrany looks at acne, a disease which, in its extreme form, can cause physical and emotional suffering (1) (1822)
 - 8.30pm Taste of the Times In the last of the series, Sophie Grigson turns her attention to saffron, sun-dried tomatoes and goats' cheese (1) (7629)
 - 9.00pm Dispatches How thousands of women were exposed to risk because of a hospital's failure to analyse smear tests correctly (1) (919006)



Norman Bowler, Claire King (7.00pm)



Martin Bashir and Gurkhas (7.00pm)



Meera Syal in a cabbie (9.45pm)

- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**
- Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are: 10.52075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz
- 6.00am 5 News Early (8566483)**
- 7.30pm Havalakoo (5311803)**
- 8.00pm Adventures of the Bush Patrol (8261025) 8.30pm Wildlife (8260386)
- 9.00pm Espresso (2206648)**
- 10.00pm Exclusive (1) (787261) 10.30pm The Great Garden Game (830532)
- 11.00pm Leesa (9017532)**
- 11.50pm Double Espresso (3421822) 12.00pm The Bold and the Beautiful (1) (8168984) 12.30pm Family Affairs (1) (1) (4343803)
- 1.00pm 5 News Update (4966982)**
- 1.05pm Sunset Beach (1) (3320445) 2.00pm 5's Company (7842174)
- 3.30pm Good Neighbour Sam (1964)**
- with Jack Lemmon, Edward G. Robinson, Michael Collins and Romy Schneider. Comedy about a happily married man who agrees to act as his neighbour's husband so she can meet the provisions of a will. Directed by David Swift (8460471)
- 5.30pm 100 Per Cent (8013025)**
- 6.00pm Whittle (1) (901038)**
- 6.30pm Family Affairs**
- Samon realises that he has been tricked (1) (9064900)
- 7.00pm Exclusive News**
- from the entertainment world (5968241)
- 7.30pm Animal Orbs: Mystery of the Flying Worms**
- An investigation into the plague of worms that destroy millions of pounds worth of crops each year in Africa (1) (9090174)
- 8.00pm Nancy Lam**
- A selection of vegetarian dishes including five-spice stir-fried salad. Plus Nancy and Ben visit a greengrocer (1) (6748679)
- 8.30pm 5 News (1668434)**
- 9.00pm The Stranger Beside Me (1995)**
- with Titany-Amber Thiessen, Eric Close and Gerald McRaney. A young woman's idyllic marriage turns sour when her husband is accused of rape. Directed by Sander Stern (39125795)
- 10.40pm Exclusive Extra (1765759)**
- 11.00pm The Jack Docherty Show**
- Chat and comedy (5693700)
- 11.40pm Bring Me the Head of Light**
- Entertainment Comedy panel game with Graham Norton, Lee Hurst and Fred Macaulay (5064209)
- 12.10am Live and Dangerous Sports**
- magazine includes American, Latin American and Asian football (79376287)
- 4.40pm Prisoner: Cell Block H (4835101)**
- 5.30pm 100 Per Cent (2183385)**



Collins and Lemmon (3.30pm)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

- For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**
- SKY 1**
- 6.00am Morning Glory (82403) 8.00pm Roger and Kathie Lee (56118) 10.00pm Angel and Kathie Lee (56118) 11.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (37800) 12.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (37800) 1.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (37800) 2.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (37800) 3.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (37800) 4.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (37800) 5.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (37800) 6.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (37800) 7.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (37800) 8.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (37800) 9.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (37800) 10.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (37800) 11.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (37800) 12.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (37800)
- SKY 2**
- 7.00pm Superboy (780342) 8.00pm Skies (702490) 9.00pm Highlander (702754) 10.00pm The West (702754) 11.00pm The West (702754) 12.00pm The West (702754)
- SKY NEWS**
- News coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- SKY MOVIES**
- 1.00am The Ballboy (1980) (45134423) 2.30pm The Ballboy (1980) (45134423) 3.50pm The Ballboy (1980) (45134423) 5.10pm The Ballboy (1980) (45134423) 6.30pm The Ballboy (1980) (45134423) 7.50pm The Ballboy (1980) (45134423) 9.10pm The Ballboy (1980) (45134423) 10.30pm The Ballboy (1980) (45134423) 11.50pm The Ballboy (1980) (45134423)
- SKY MOVIES GOLD**
- 8.00pm Born Yesterday (1959) (2069894) 9.00pm Born Yesterday (1959) (2069894) 10.00pm Born Yesterday (1959) (2069894) 11.00pm Born Yesterday (1959) (2069894) 12.00pm Born Yesterday (1959) (2069894)
- TNT**
- 8.00pm Keep the Change (1989) (3721480) 1.00pm Keep the Change (1989) (3721480) 2.00pm Keep the Change (1989) (3721480) 3.00pm Keep the Change (1989) (3721480) 4.00pm Keep the Change (1989) (3721480) 5.00pm Keep the Change (1989) (3721480) 6.00pm Keep the Change (1989) (3721480) 7.00pm Keep the Change (1989) (3721480) 8.00pm Keep the Change (1989) (3721480) 9.00pm Keep the Change (1989) (3721480) 10.00pm Keep the Change (1989) (3721480) 11.00pm Keep the Change (1989) (3721480) 12.00pm Keep the Change (1989) (3721480)
- SKY SPORTS 1**
- 7.00am Sports Centre (70348) 7.30pm Wrestling: Shotgun Challenge (48648) 8.00pm Wrestling: Shotgun Challenge (48648) 8.30pm Wrestling: Shotgun Challenge (48648) 9.00pm Wrestling: Shotgun Challenge (48648) 9.30pm Wrestling: Shotgun Challenge (48648) 10.00pm Wrestling: Shotgun Challenge (48648) 10.30pm Wrestling: Shotgun Challenge (48648) 11.00pm Wrestling: Shotgun Challenge (48648) 11.30pm Wrestling: Shotgun Challenge (48648) 12.00pm Wrestling: Shotgun Challenge (48648)
- SKY SPORTS 2**
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- SKY SPORTS 3**
- 12.00pm Pro Beach Soccer (8665754) 1.00pm Pro Beach Soccer (8665754) 2.00pm Pro Beach Soccer (8665754) 3.00pm Pro Beach Soccer (8665754) 4.00pm Pro Beach Soccer (8665754) 5.00pm Pro Beach Soccer (8665754) 6.00pm Pro Beach Soccer (8665754) 7.00pm Pro Beach Soccer (8665754) 8.00pm Pro Beach Soccer (8665754) 9.00pm Pro Beach Soccer (8665754) 10.00pm Pro Beach Soccer (8665754) 11.00pm Pro Beach Soccer (8665754) 12.00pm Pro Beach Soccer (8665754)
- THE MOVIE CHANNEL**
- 1.00am Rambo (1980) (124841) 2.00pm Rambo (1980) (124841) 3.00pm Rambo (1980) (124841) 4.00pm Rambo (1980) (124841) 5.00pm Rambo (1980) (124841) 6.00pm Rambo (1980) (124841) 7.00pm Rambo (1980) (124841) 8.00pm Rambo (1980) (124841) 9.00pm Rambo (1980) (124841) 10.00pm Rambo (1980) (124841) 11.00pm Rambo (1980) (124841) 12.00pm Rambo (1980) (124841)

- Blockade (1980) (72464)**
- 4.00pm The Kid from Last Year (1979) (5813718) 5.45pm The Kid from Last Year (1979) (5813718) 7.00pm The Kid from Last Year (1979) (5813718) 8.00pm The Kid from Last Year (1979) (5813718) 9.00pm The Kid from Last Year (1979) (5813718) 10.00pm The Kid from Last Year (1979) (5813718) 11.00pm The Kid from Last Year (1979) (5813718) 12.00pm The Kid from Last Year (1979) (5813718)
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- EUROSPORT**
- 7.00am IndyCar (86299) 8.00pm Motorcycles (86299) 9.00pm Motorcycles (86299) 10.00pm Motorcycles (86299) 11.00pm Motorcycles (86299) 12.00pm Motorcycles (86299)
- UK GOLD**
- 7.00am Record Breakers (866377) 7.35pm Record Breakers (866377) 8.00pm Record Breakers (866377) 8.35pm Record Breakers (866377) 9.00pm Record Breakers (866377) 9.35pm Record Breakers (866377) 10.00pm Record Breakers (866377) 10.35pm Record Breakers (866377) 11.00pm Record Breakers (866377) 11.35pm Record Breakers (866377) 12.00pm Record Breakers (866377)
- THE DISNEY CHANNEL**
- 8.00am Mouse Tracks (862261) 8.25pm Mouse Tracks (862261) 8.50pm Mouse Tracks (862261) 9.15pm Mouse Tracks (8622

ATHLETICS 49

Christie given another chance to bid farewell

SPORT

RUGBY UNION 50

Lions look to Leonard's lead in baptism of fire

THURSDAY MAY 22 1997

Australia must overcome inhospitable conditions in opening Texaco Trophy match

Green grass of home cheers England

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND are approaching an immensely challenging summer with a refreshing air of purpose and unity. It might be thought that this should be taken for granted but it has not always been so and, if the new mood transmits to performance, there is every reason to suppose the international season can begin with victory over Australia in the Texaco Trophy.

This, of course, is backing an outsider. Only last month, Australia won a one-day series in South Africa, where England were beaten 6-1 not so long ago. Australia are highly accomplished at the limited overs game and are clear favourites to win the three-match series and the opening fixture in Leeds today.

Already, however, this tour-

ing team has been caught short at Worcester, where careless batting on a seaming pitch saw them bowled out by an undistinguished attack inside 35 overs. In itself, this may not have fractured confidence but, as they peered through the murk of Headingley yesterday and observed a pitch under cover against the constant threat of rain, they must have known that similar conditions will await them whenever they can be arranged.

Headingley, of all English grounds, will naturally reproduce such an alien environment and, although the tour management continually stress that they are happy with their limited preparation and cite their volume of recent cricket, virtually none of it has

been played on the type of surfaces they will encounter now.

Experience counts in their favour. Australia's likely XI today will boast an aggregate of 900 one-day internationals; England's 15-man squad can offer only 362. Recent results between the sides point the same way — Australia have won seven of the past nine against England.

The balancing factor is England's imposing record at home, where they are able to make the most of familiar conditions by selecting a specialist one-day side. They have won nine of their past 11 completed internationals in this country and Michael Atherton has collected the Texaco Trophy in all five series since he took over the captaincy. It is something of which he is justifiably proud, although he is also aware that only two months before his appointment, Australia won here 3-0.

"We've beaten allcomers since I've been captain and I'd like to add Australia to that list," he said yesterday, during a brisk, businesslike press conference in which he spoke politely and smiled graciously but gave absolutely nothing away.

In company with David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, and David Lloyd, the coach, Atherton had already decided on the make-up of his team for today but he was not inclined to reveal it, nor even to offer many clues. He confirmed that he would open the batting himself, as he always must, and hinted that one spinner would be sufficient on this ground. Beyond that, he was mute and inscrutable.

The likelihood is that John Crawley, Ben Hollis, Ashley Giles and Chris Silverwood will miss out today and Atherton stresses that there is no intention of changing the side cosmetically. Asked if he would try to give everyone in the squad a game, he retorted: "No, we will try to win the series."

England are unlikely to accommodate a pinch-hitter, at least not on a Headingley pitch liable to maintain the trends of the season. "It has been a bowler-friendly summer so far," Atherton said. "Around the country, the ball has been seaming. We have to get the balance right be-



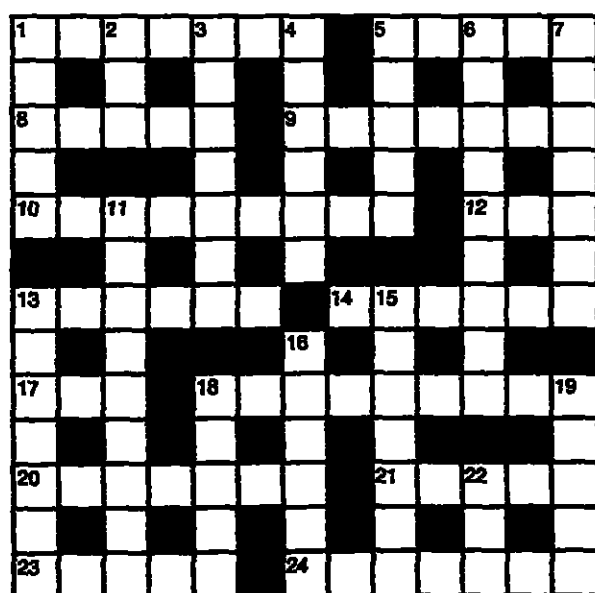
Atherton's determination to start the one-day series with victory was evident as he practised in the nets at Headingley yesterday



Waugh turns his thoughts to taking on England today

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1100 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS

- 1 Fish-egg delicacy (7)
- 5 Sheer (seaside) rock (5)
- 8 Elector (5)
- 9 Invaluable (of large sums) (7)
- 10 Hurry up! (4,5)
- 12 Scrap of cloth (3)
- 13 Wheelie (6)
- 14 Appearance expression (6)
- 17 Deed (3)
- 18 Jane Eyre's husband (9)
- 20 Rules of language (7)
- 21 Made well: preserved (5)
- 23 Tasty: a messer in boats (Graham) (5)
- 24 The midpoint: to some extent (7)

DOWN

- 1 Make trivial objection (5)
- 2 To check: a doctor (3)
- 3 Sprayer (7)
- 4 Catch in snare (6)
- 5 Immobiliser: vegetable heap (5)
- 6 Wrong (9)
- 7 Cargo (7)
- 11 Little decorative item (5,4)
- 13 Mistake, when dropped (7)
- 15 Sheet with cut pattern (7)
- 16 Damage with heat (6)
- 18 Card game: curious (5)
- 19 Red-complexioned (5)
- 22 Uncooked (3)

British Midland The Airline for Europe

PRIZES: THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling Economy Class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network.

THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of destinations throughout the UK as well as Europe and has now added daily flights from Heathrow to Copenhagen, Oslo and Gothenburg. With over 1,500 flights a week to 18 European destinations British Midland is the Airline for Europe.

All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address

SOLUTION TO NO 1099
ACROSS: 1 Goldilocks 5 Primary 9 Apple 10 Dumb
11 Earliest 13 Imbibe 15 Ardour 17 Glancing 18 Lieu
21 Order 22 Posh-Bah 23 Distrained
DOWN: 2 Opium 3 Drab 4 Layman 5 Crawlers
6 Supreme 7 See-through 8 Paddington 12 Obscure
14 Bearfist 16 Sniper 19 Imbue 20 Yogi

Jacquet thinks Cantona will return

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

WHILE Eric Cantona relaxes at the home of his parents in Villars, an alpine village in the south of France, the shockwaves created by his sudden departure from Manchester United at the weekend continue to reverberate. Yesterday, Aimé Jacquet, the France coach, joined the growing band of those who refused to believe that football's former enfant terrible has played his final match.

Jacquet was able to get closer than most to Cantona, an introverted and often reclusive figure. Nine times he gave

him the France captain's armband until they fell out when Cantona was suspended for eight months after the infamous "kung-fu" incident at Selhurst Park two years ago. After he had been sent off, in an FA Cup Premier League game against Crystal Palace, Cantona kicked out at a spectator as he left the pitch.

However, despite personal differences, Jacquet has never lost his admiration for Cantona's playing ability. "I am really surprised at Eric's decision," he said.

"My abiding memory of him is of the talented player who had a successful spell

alongside me, in the French team. When the suspension came along, it stopped him in his tracks, but he is a great personality who has made his mark on football and is worthy of the utmost respect. Perhaps he has become sick and tired of the media circus that surrounds him."

Jacquet believes that Cantona, who is 31 on Saturday, still has much to offer the game, even though his professional appetite appears to have been satisfied by the winning of four league championship medals in five seasons with Manchester United, and one with Leeds United.

"It is far too early for him to retire," Jacquet said. "I know him well, he is deeply in love with football and I am convinced that his love for the game will make him come back."

There are approximately 25,000 tickets still available for England's first ever meeting with South Africa, at Old Trafford on Saturday. The game is only the second England home match to be played away from Wembley in 31 years. The Manchester United stadium's capacity has been reduced to 55,000.

Nicholl resigns, page 46

Faldo backs Woods's slam chances

By JOHN HOPKINS GOLF CORRESPONDENT

NICK FALDO is back at Wentworth, where he is a member. He has played at this lovely course in leafy Surrey for years and all his recent homes have been nearby. He has returned from the United States to the country of his birth to compete for the Volvo PGA Championship, the flagship event of the European tour.

He had concluded his practice for the day and the subject under discussion was not his golf but that of Tiger Woods. There is nothing new in that. Everything in golf, seemingly, is being refracted through the Woods filter. "He's doing it, isn't he?" Faldo said. "He's built for the Nineties. Good luck to him."

But whereas most courses are held to be defenceless to the phenomenal length of Woods and his red-hot putter, Faldo believes the West course at Wentworth would not fall so easily to the man

whose name is on everyone's lips. For Woods, who signed a multimillion-dollar contract with American Express last Monday, the Burma Road might not do very nicely.

It is not just that it is in such a quintessentially English place as Virginia Water, because Woods has won in exotic places outside the United States. Rather it is that the classic layout by Harold Colt would test every department of Woods's game and his huge length and deadly putting might not give him as much of an edge as they usually do. "He might only use his driver on three holes — the 1st, 3rd and the 9th," Faldo said. "He would have less of an advantage here."

Golf's grand slam is victory in the game's four major professional titles in one year. It looked possible for Faldo in 1990 after he had won the Masters. He got desperately close in the US Open when his 15-foot putt to get into a play-off caught the hole and spun away. He then won the



Woods: deadly putting

Open at St Andrews and finished equal nineteenth in the US PGA.

Can Woods succeed where Faldo and all others have failed? Ben Hogan got nearest, winning three of the four in 1953. "Tiger has got the game throttled," Faldo said. "I have not known anyone like it since Nicklaus. He is playing a totally different course to the rest of us."

"His key clubs are his driver and the putter and

when they are working, he is unbeatable. There are no par fives for him. There is no pin that is too tight or too tough when you are going at it with an eight-iron. If you are hitting a four-iron, that is different."

"Of course it can be done," Faldo continued. "I got pretty darn close. Congressional [the venue for the US Open] is going to be playing very long. I hear, because they have had a lot of rain. The one that might throw him out of whack is Troon [for the Open in July]. I don't suppose that Tiger is used to a good old game."

Can Woods withstand the pressure that will be focused on him as he attempts to win the grand slam? Will he remain healthy? Can he keep his game at its razor-sharp level for each championship? The possibility is intriguing. "If I was 100-1 to do it in 1990 when I was hot," Faldo said, "Tiger would be 50-1."

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